

**TODAY**  
**10P**

**MARTIN AMES AND A FATHER'S LOVE**  
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**MURDER IN THE VILLA: HUSBAND'S STORY**  
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**TODAY**  
**10P**

## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

**TODAY**  
**Election '97**  
I have seen the future and it's tartan  
Michael Gove on what Scotland can tell us about Blair's Britain

**TOMORROW**  
**THE GO-BETWEENS**  
The Asian girls trapped between two cultures

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Wrap Artists**  
Grace Bradberry on the season's new wrap-round dress

**THURSDAY**  
**BOOKS**  
Laurence Norfolk on John Keay's epic study of end of empire

**Peter Ackroyd on Edward Fitzgerald, Ireland's adventurer lord**

**FRIDAY**  
**Life started for Ian**  
The Shadow Foreign Secretary took the position that Tory Eurosceptics have been urging John Major to adopt. The move was the latest campaign shift by Labour after a weekend in which it had been accused by the Tories of making policy on the hoof.

**SATURDAY**  
**The Chelsea Boot**

**PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY**

## Pressure on MP grows as broadcaster agrees to fight on anti-sleaze ticket

# BBC man Bell to stand against Neil Hamilton

By Philip Webster, Russell Jenkins and Carol Midgley

THE broadcaster Martin Bell is to stand as an anti-corruption candidate against Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy.

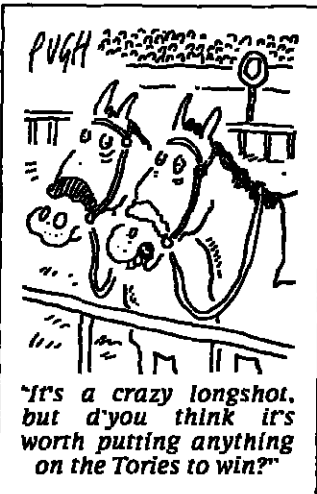
The decision, made in agreement with the local Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates who are to step aside, meant the pressure on Mr Hamilton to stand down was reaching breaking-point last night.

Dissidents within his Tattler party had already secured agreement that there should be a secret ballot at his adoption meeting tomorrow night — and that in itself put a big question mark over his chances of survival. Now Mr Bell's decision means that Mr Hamilton may have to quit to give the Conservatives any hope of retaining the seat.

If he goes, Mr Bell is expected to withdraw, leaving the Labour candidate Jon Kelly and the Liberal Democrat Roger Barlow to return to the fray.

The opposition party leaderships were delighted last night at their coup in securing Mr Bell, a widely respected journalist who became a household figure as the BBC's white-suited war correspondent. His interest in fighting the seat was made known to Tony Blair's office by a photographer who works for the party and knows the journalist well. Mr Bell then spoke to Paddy Ashdown and Mr Blair's senior staff before travelling to the constituency yesterday to meet local officials of both parties.

They were apparently impressed by his determination to



make a stand on the issue of sleaze and after some discussions agreed that their candidates should stand aside. Mr Bell was a Young Liberal at university, but he has never been politically active.

The news of Mr Bell's readiness to stand came as the final blow to the Tattler Conservative Association. Most members have been loyal to Mr Hamilton, but there is increasing concern among them that the MP has become a liability.

A recent ICM poll suggested that Labour would give Mr Hamilton a close fight in the fifth safest Conservative seat in Britain, while an alternative candidate would enjoy a comfortable nine-point lead.

Tony Martin, the Tattler Association treasurer, led the calls for a secret ballot to allow constituent-

cy members to register their views without appearing to be personally disloyal to Mr Hamilton or his wife Christine.

He said: "My personal view is that Neil Hamilton is innocent of the charges against him. I have taken these steps because the electorate does not share that view. He is an electoral liability. This seat, the fifth safest in the country, is now entirely loseable."

"An adoption meeting is normally just a rally. There is obviously a great deal of feeling against Neil Hamilton. The argument I put forward is that a lot of people feel inhibited in expressing a view from social constraints because he is friends with a lot of them. It takes a brave person to stand up against them."

Laurance Hobday, a Macclesfield councillor, welcomed the secret ballot, although he said it would not affect the way he intends to vote. "It may allow other members of the association to feel a little freer to vote the way the electorate is telling them," he said.

"I spoke to a farmer about a completely separate matter the other day and asked him about whether he was a Conservative voter. He said 'yes' but he would not vote for Neil Hamilton. He said he would vote for virtually anyone but Mr Hamilton."

Mr Hamilton said yesterday that he intended to make no public comments.

Election 97, pages 7-11  
Peter Stothard, page 20  
Leading article, page 21  
Lib-Dem manifesto, pages 40, 41



Bell: war correspondent took decision after contacting both Labour and the Liberal Democrats

## Cook takes Tory Eurosceptic line on the single currency

By Our Political Editor

ROBIN COOK yesterday tried to outflank the Government on the single currency by virtually ruling out British membership under Labour during the next Parliament — if it had not joined in 1999.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary took the position that Tory Eurosceptics have been urging John Major to adopt. The move was the latest campaign shift by Labour after a weekend in which it had been accused by the Tories of making policy on the hoof.

The two most significant changes, conversion to the principle of privatisation and the dropping of key concessions promised to union leaders, were confirmed yesterday. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that he would look at the possible sale of government assets, land and building worth billions of pounds. Leadership sources also said that there was no longer any plan

to give part-time workers the same rights as full-time workers, or to cut the time workers need to be in a job to be able to claim unfair dismissal.

Mr Blair will make the privatisation shift explicit today in a City speech. He will say that the presumption of his government would be "that economic activity is best left to the private sector".

Mr Cook's single currency intervention was seized on by the Tories as yet another gaffe. But it appeared to have been well-planned. Rightwing Tory MPs were last night pressing for a fresh shift from the Government to match Mr Cook's move, and ministers, caught off-guard, were questioning whether he had been speaking without the backing of Mr Blair and Mr Brown.

It appeared unlikely that both were consulted by Mr Cook on the precise wording, but last night

they were professing satisfaction at his remarks — in line with Mr Blair's statement that there were "formidable obstacles" in the way of entry in the first wave in 1999.

Mr Cook told LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme: "If you didn't join in 1999, it's very difficult to see a government that has taken the decision that Britain wasn't ready in 1999, coming to the decision that it would be ready by the year after or the year after that."

Labour has made a commitment to have a referendum if joining a single currency was contemplated. "I doubt whether any Government is going to have such a referendum immediately before a general election. So, in the event that Britain doesn't join in the first wave... I would have thought the probability is that one is looking towards the subsequent Parliament."

## Crewman dies in fire on liner

A German crewman died when fire broke out on the Cunard liner *Vista Fjord* near the Bahamas, forcing nearly a thousand passengers and crew to prepare to abandon ship. The fire was put out when the vessel docked at Freeport three hours later.

## Cup final replay

A goal apiece during extra time took the Middlesbrough-Leicester City Coca-Cola final to a replay on April 16. Liverpool lost to Coventry in the Premiership. Page 25

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## Defiant Aintree back under starter's orders

By Richard Evans

THE Grand National, which had to be abandoned on Saturday after two IRA bomb hoaxes, will become a symbol of defiance today when it is run amid the tightest security ever at a British sporting event.

After a "Herculean effort" by police, who conducted an inch-

by-inch search of the 250-acre Aintree racecourse and checked 7,000 vehicles, ground staff began repairing damage to the track yesterday.

Thirty-six runners are expected to line up for the rescheduled race at 5pm today, which will be shown live by BBC Television. No private vehicles will be allowed on the course; all specta-

tors will be searched, and several parts of the track will be closed to the public.

Police are also stepping up security for three major sporting events next weekend: Sunday's FA Cup semi-final at Arsenal's ground at Highbury, north London, the other semi-final in Manchester, and the London Marathon, in which 25,000

people will run. Yesterday, however, a determination to run the world's greatest steeplechase shone through all the chaos and havoc brought about by its postponement. "The race must be run for the sake of the

Continued on page 2, col 8

Car chaos, page 3  
National pride, page 25

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'We had to do something to help. Thousands had nowhere to sleep, so we offered our spare room'

# Merseyside wages its own war against IRA terrorists

By CAROL MIDDLEY AND RUSSELL JENKINS

HUNDREDS of Grand National racegoers faced spending a second night in Liverpool last night as attempts to retrieve thousands of stranded cars from Aintree turned to chaos.

Drivers waiting outside the course were first told by police that cars could be picked up at noon. The deadline was then put back to 3pm before police insisted cars not removed by 6pm would be locked in.

However when it became clear that the operation was not possible in the time they extended the deadline to midnight. There was further confusion when drivers turned up at the wrong gates to collect their vehicles. Some, who had left bags and jackets containing their car keys inside the main Aintree building were turned away.

A spokesman said vehicles not collected were to be removed. Owners would not be charged a fee. "If it is not possible for people to get to Aintree to collect their belongings, the property will be gathered up and secured and kept at Aintree where it can be collected tomorrow."

The chaotic scenes came as the people of Liverpool waged their own war on terrorism.

Joe Tizzard, 17, who was attempting to become the youngest winner of the Grand National for 60 years, rode three point-to-point winners in Dorset yesterday. His first visit to Aintree ended in a five-hour journey home in the back of a horsebox, sitting on an up-turned bucket, with Straight Talk, the horse he was due to ride. Sharing the journey were his parents and sister, and trainer Paul Nicholls.

Police, social services, voluntary organisations and ordinary citizens reacted swiftly to implement evacuation procedures for thousands of stranded Aintree racegoers which officials said was the biggest since the war.

More than 2,000 people spent the night in sports halls, churches and schools as hastily arranged beds were marshalled around the city. An estimated 1,000 more were invited into private homes as police cordoned off their vehicles and belongings.

Vic Citarella, the director of Liverpool Social Services, said Operation Aintree had been

the largest scale emergency evacuation in modern times. "I cannot think of an occasion where people have had to be accommodated on such a scale. For the social services department it brings back memories of Hillsborough."

The procedures had followed the city and Sefton Council's emergency disaster plans. As many as 5,000 racegoers from all over the country woke up to be served breakfast by Merseyside's Good Samaritans and some even stayed for Sunday lunch with families.

More than 20,000 were evacuated in a fleet of 100 buses and coaches from Aintree to Albert Dock and those who needed overnight accommodation were sent on to the council centres. Everton Sports Centre took 500 alone. They were fed burgers and chips and emerged rested, singing the praises of the city's residents as some prepared to enjoy today's 'people's National'.

Jenny Pitman, the trainer, said she welcomed the decision to run the race. "We cannot be held to ransom by these people and neither can the country."

People who had to leave dogs in their vehicles overnight were escorted to the car parks in the centre of the course to retrieve their pets. One man was allowed to his car at 7am. A small brown terrier sat on the back seat.

Jimmy Hill, the broadcaster, who stood first in the queue with his wife to collect his car, put himself forward as the crowd's spokesman. "It is all very British," he said. "It is like the war. The more we are inconvenienced, the more we laugh."

Ron Rooney and his wife Joan had seen the drama unfold on television. Mr Rooney, 59, said: "We had to do something to help. The television said there would be up thousands of people with nowhere to spend the night so we rang the radio station and offered our spare room."

They took in Julia Edgeworth, 20, a university student and Joe Jefferson, her boyfriend. "By nine o'clock we were sitting in the lounge with Ron and Joan drinking lager and playing party games," she said.

Jim Regan and his son Dave were settling down in front of the television when the chaos began. By midnight on Saturday they had made over 300 cups of tea for evacuees.

Mr Regan, 65, a retired engineer, said: "People were roaming up and down our road like lost sheep. They were offering us money to use the toilet and the phone but we wouldn't accept a penny and invited them in for cups of tea."

Aland Gregory, Everton Sports Centre manager, said: "They ranged from children to pensioners and they were from all over the country. We had this worked out as part of the disaster emergency plan but we never envisaged anything quite like this."

Leading article, page 21  
National pride, page 25  
Dunwoody reflects, page 34  
Rob Hughes, page 35



A harassed police officer directs racegoers towards their cars yesterday as the massive operation to clear the area by midnight got underway



Jenny Pitman, who insisted the race must go ahead

## Bookies delighted at race decision

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BOOKMAKERS greeted the decision to run the Grand National today with relief after Saturday's cancellation threatened to cost them about £5 million in lost profits.

The National is the country's biggest flutter of the year, with the public laying out about £70 million in bets. If the race had been cancelled, the bookmakers would have been obliged to return all the money, losing potential profits from the race but still paying for the extra staff called in to deal with the additional business.

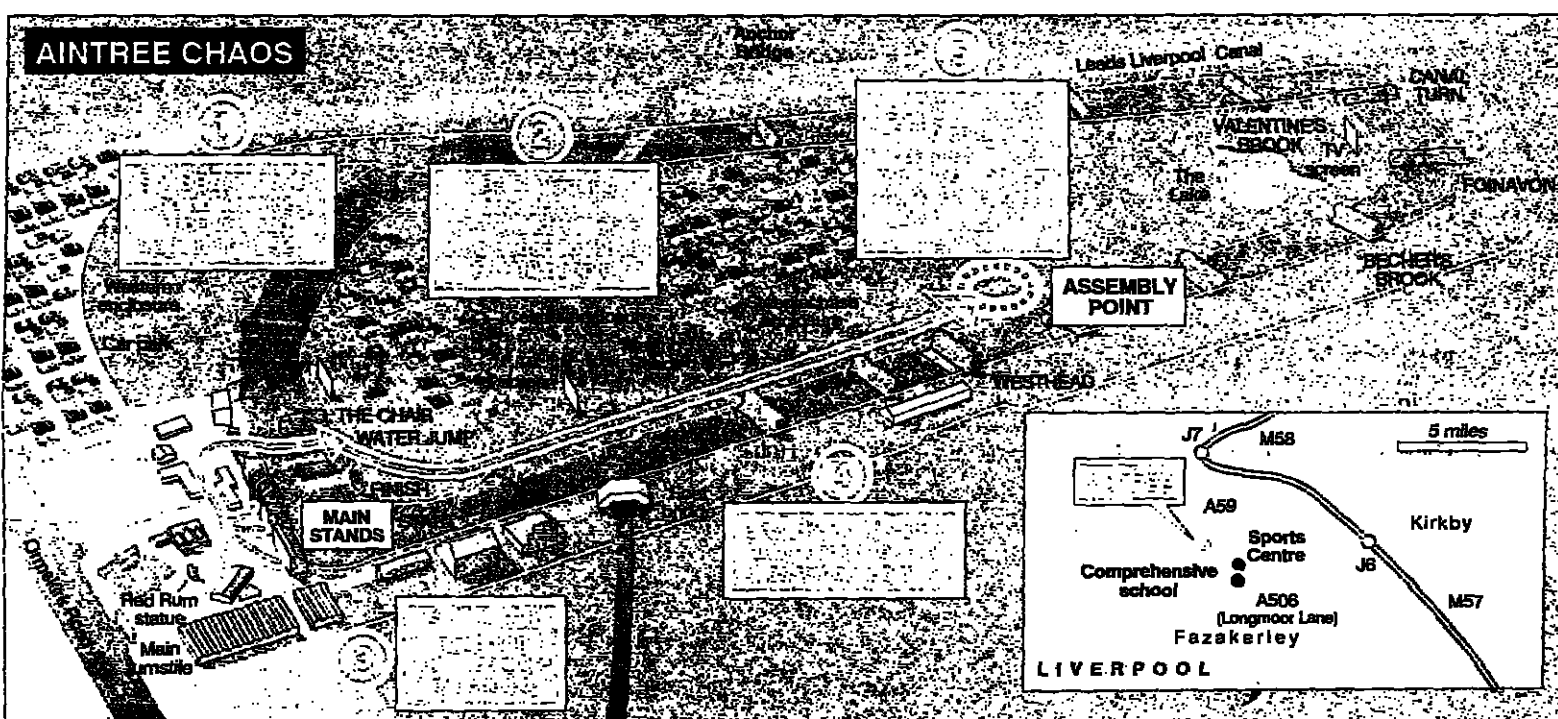
Most bookmakers are expected to offer punters the chance of withdrawing their bet ahead of the race this afternoon. Stakes that were placed after Saturday, March 29, on horses that do not take part in the race, may also be refunded.

On-course bets laid with the Tote, which have all been declared void, can also be reclaimed by applying to the address on the back. Mal-

colm Palmer, for Corals, is confident that about 99 per cent of punters will stick with their original bets. He also hopes that the bookmakers will receive some last-minute extra betting that will compensate them for the cost of calling in extra staff again today.

The main bookies could still be financially disappointed should one of the pre-race favourites win the National. William Hill has said that victory for Wyldie Hide, quoted at 10-1, would result in the biggest National payout for many years. Jenny Pitman's two horses, Nabihien Lad and Smith's Band, have also proved popular with the punters.

The betting industry has faced a torrid few years since the National was abandoned after two false starts in 1993. Competition from the National Lottery has hit horse-racing turnover and a series of poor winters has hit the racing programme.



## Stranded punters champ at the bit

Sportswriter Alan Lee shared the long wait

THE well-bred and down-at-heel camped out together, united by their temporary homelessness, unable to return to transport and belongings. We sat at chipped desks, on chairs made for another generation, wearing our creased racing suits and hats with prickly, unwashed embarrassment as the hours passed. It was more than a day since the cancelled race and in the school set up like a refuge from the Blitz, with volunteers serving free tea, we waited for release from a most unsporting purgatory.

Like many stranded punters, I had battled my way to Aintree through the motorway misery inflicted by the IRA and then found helplessness at the same hands. There others who suffered more, like the man who spent the night in a hotel bath or another who slept rough by Liverpool docks. But by yesterday afternoon, the stoicism was wearing thin. Three Grand National jockeys had

walked the streets, still in racing boots and breeches but now dishevelled and unshaven, mothers queued querulously for public telephones, fretting for children back home. And many warm-hearted Liverpoolians opened their homes to the displaced and indisposed.

It had all been very British at first. Saturday's withdrawal was well ordered and good natured. The humour was black but the mood about as fraught as an office fire drill. They wouldn't bomb the National, would they? There were some cries of complaint from high-heeled women and some posturing from their pint-clutching partners. But then a Ghurka band, banished like the rest of us, struck up as they marched and the

crowd, unwilling to break up an annual party, danced their defiance.

Dusk was falling before most of us accepted we would not be going home, that the police were not completing an operation but expanding it. The streets of unfashionable Aintree were full of confusion as thousands competed for food, drink, transport and telephones. Incongruously, in a newsagent's shop, the only queue was for lottery tickets.

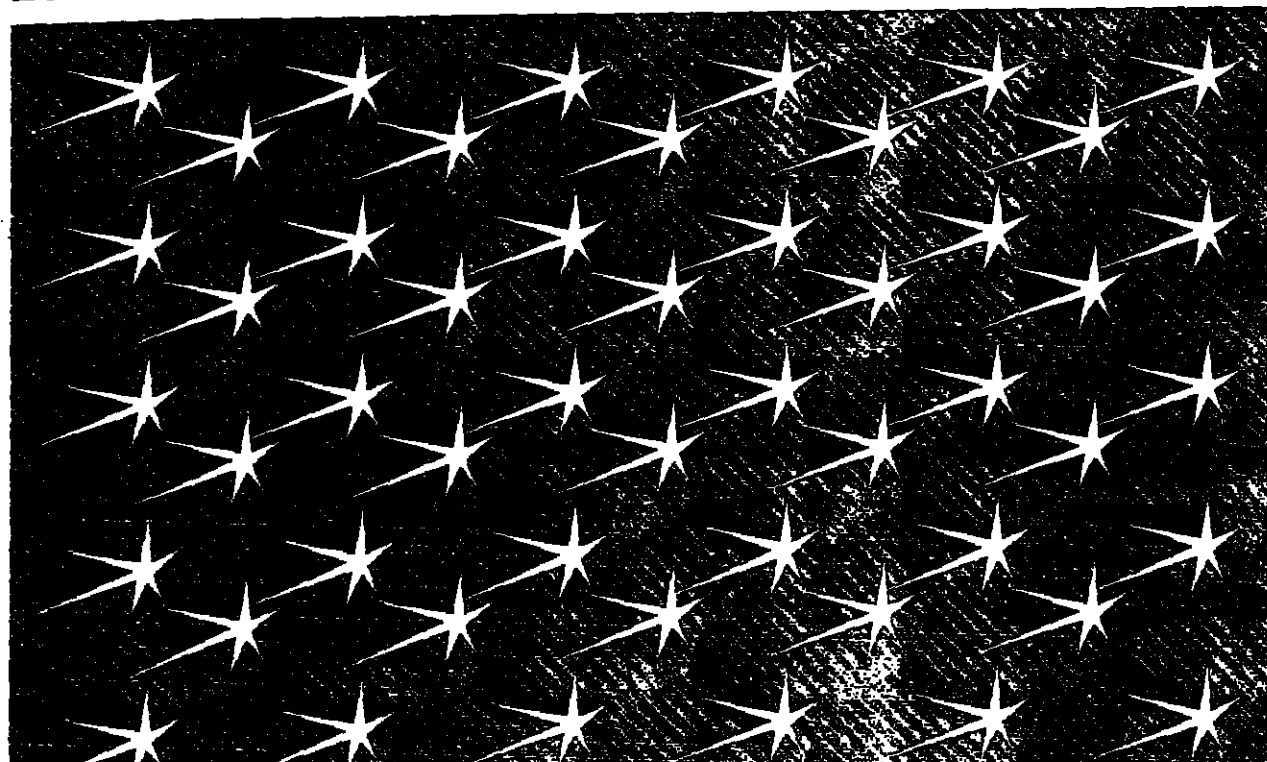
A sandwich board evangelist brandished his message, "Righteousness lifts a nation but sin is a disgrace to all". Two miles on, outside a motel where a receptionist was trying to clear her lobby of refugees, I met a woman who agreed. She was in her late seventies and had limped there from her Saturday shop near the course. "It's taken me three hours," she said. "And I'm supposed to be disabled. These people don't think of that, do they?"

## Delay upsets the runners

By RICHARD EVANS

THE outcome of the postponed race will hinge on how the likely 36 runners have coped with 48 hours of upheaval.

Nick Wingfield Digby, a Newmarket vet, said yesterday: "If their routine is broken, the horses are likely to suffer because their digestive system may be affected, particularly when they are in a strange environment eating strange food, or having their exercise regime drastically altered." Travel can also have a debilitating effect on some horses, who lose weight and fitness.



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# Churches ask for single bishop in leap of faith

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY of five denominations in Wales have put their historic differences behind them to ask for an "ecumenical bishop" who would oversee all their members in east Cardiff.

The proposal, certain to arouse fierce opposition among those who cherish their hard-won Protestant independence, would mean the first such bishop in the world. He would be appointed as an assistant to the Anglican Bishop of Monmouth, the Right Rev Rowan Williams, but would provide oversight in an area of 50,000 people for the Church in Wales, Methodists, Presbyterians, covenanted Baptists and the United Reformed Church. The proposal will be put to church leaders this year.

Although the architects of the plan are optimistic, it is unlikely to meet with universal approval because of differences between the denominations over ministry and episcopal oversight.

Many Baptists and Presbyterians cherish their legacy of opposition to episcopal leadership, basing their arguments on biblical precedent. Many Anglicans, on the other hand, do not accept the ministry of those who have not been episcopally ordained.

The proposal will be debated this week by an episcopacy consultation of the World Council of Churches in Strasbourg. If successful in Wales, they would almost certainly be followed elsewhere in the world.

The bishop would have to be a man because the Anglicans in Wales have only recently voted for women priests and do not accept that women can be bishops. He would act as a focus of unity and oversight for the five denominations, carrying out confirmations



Abraham Williams said plan could end discord

and taking part in ordinations. Many Protestant churches are facing declining numbers and believe there is a new strength to be found in unity.

A paper outlining the scheme says the proposed area "has considerable mission potential and is considered by

the church leaders to be ripe for a strategic approach." The Rev Donald Knighton, chairman of the South West District of the Methodist Church, said: "In this area of east Cardiff there are so many ecumenical partnerships between the churches that they feel they need a leadership that is ecumenical rather than separate. This would be a breakthrough in the log jam in negotiations between episcopal and non-episcopal churches. This is very much a leap of faith, but we do have to take leaps of faith if we are going to be effective as churches."

The Rev Gethin Abraham-Williams, a Baptist minister in the area, said that many Baptist churches had made a covenant in an attempt to seek unity, but unity had not been achieved. The question of bishops was a main stumbling block. "If we would have a bishop in common, maybe that could be the answer."



Robert Hardy and a campaigner dressed for action at the battlefield yesterday

## Actor adds voice to fight for battlefield

By TIM JONES

ROBERT HARDY, the actor and authority on medieval warfare, appealed to the Government yesterday to stop a property developer building houses on an historic battlefield.

Hardy, the Battlefields Trust and other societies believe it is imperative that the planned development at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, should be halted. The Battle of Tewkesbury, on May 4, 1471, is regarded as having been decisive in ending the Wars of the Roses.

Hardy said he was strongly opposed to the plans by Bryant Homes Merica to build 62 houses on a part of the field known as the Gastons. "A battlefield is a very rare commodity in a way as important as cathedrals," he said. "They are charged with remembrance and electricity."

He hoped that everyone opposed to the scheme would protest to Tewkesbury council. "And if that fails, then John Gummer [the Environment Secretary] should intervene and save this historical site for the nation."

Joe Kent, the borough council leader, said there was no evidence the area where the houses could be built was part of the battlefield.

## Carey appeals for lottery funds

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Archbishop of Canterbury will today appeal for National Lottery funding for nearly 170 country churches that want to repair their buildings and to run community projects. Representatives from the churches will meet in London today to rally support for £125 million Millennium Commission funding which has already been long-listed. The request

comes while many in the churches still have doubts about the ethics of accepting lottery cash.

But Dr George Carey said: "I hope very much that the Millennium Commission will wish to offer its support to this venture and make so much else possible by using the past to celebrate the anniversary of our Saviour's birth, and through this programme to enrich the future for millions of our rural people."

The money would pay for tourist centres, Internet web sites, playgroups, concert facilities and other community projects at isolated churches.

Dr Carey said: "Strong community life is an important contribution to health and happiness, particularly for the young, for families and the elderly. The possibility of using the often-spacious church buildings for good purposes in addition to worship offers a new vision of Christian worship."

## Villagers reluctant to see the light

By ROBIN YOUNG

SPARKS are flying between neighbours in two tiny seaside settlements over the introduction of electricity. After almost 150 years in darkness the villagers of Ethie Haven in Angus have decided to forsake gas lamps and driftwood stoves.

Less than half a mile away, there is resistance among the people of Corbie. They feel that electricity threatens their traditional way of life, and say the new poles carrying power to Ethie Haven ruin their views of Lunan Bay.

Ethie Haven, built as a fishing village in the 1850s, was bought up by Edinburgh professional people as fishing vessels outgrew the harbour. Comprising 14 stone cottages, hidden at the end of a two-mile farm track, "the Haen" became a popular summertime retreat.

By contrast, Corbie, a shanty town of wooden beach huts and abandoned caravans, was built in the 1920s. Like their neighbours, the "Corbies" have inherited their properties from their fathers and grand-

fathers and live there in summer and at weekends.

Dave Jackson, 46, believes that electricity will change the place for ever. He said: "We have retained a sense of community that seems to go when you introduce televisions, telephones and fax machines. I think electricity will inevitably change the character of the bay. The poles on the headland are disgraceful. They have spoilt the bay."

Joy Mathews adds that the cable is buried further on. "The Haeners paid the money to hide the cable from their own sight, but they would not pay extra to bury the lines across the headland."

At Ethie Haven, Bill Dickson, in his mid-70s, said: "I have been coming here since I was seven years old. Running water never changed us. Inside toilets never changed us. I do not see why electricity should change us."

"I can understand why the Corbies are upset about the poles, but it would have cost about six times as much to bury the cable."

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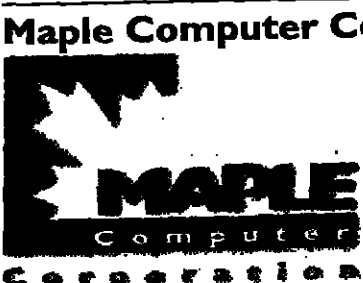
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# Boy's skull cracked by concrete thrown at school coach

BY JOANNA BALE AND EMMA WILKINS

A BOY whose skull was fractured when a concrete block was thrown at his school coach was recovering in intensive care yesterday.

Ross Jeff, of West Bromwich, West Midlands, was hurt when his friend Richard Comery, both 14, as they were returning from a school skiing trip to Austria. The coach had just crossed the border into Belgium from Germany. Although Richard suffered leg injuries in the attack, he was well enough to return to his home in Great Bar, Birmingham, where he took part in a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme walk yesterday.

Ross, who underwent a four-hour operation early on Saturday, is recovering at the Cizelle Hospital in Liège. His parents flew out on Saturday and were at his bedside yesterday. The hospital said that the boy was making a good recovery and could be well enough to be flown home within the next few days.

Tony Comery, Richard's father, said that most of the children in the party of 44 from Dartmouth High School, Sandwell, West Midlands, were asleep when the 11lb concrete slab was thrown on to their coach from a motorway bridge. It smashed through a skylight and hit Ross on the head, showering the other children with shards of glass.

Mr Comery, 46, whose son was treated for his leg injuries at the Herstal Hospital, near Liège, said: "Some youths threw a concrete brick and it went through the skylight of the coach. It bounced off Richard's leg and then hit Ross on the head."

"Many of the children were sleeping at the time and were showered with glass, but according to Richard they were remarkably calm. Richard is



Watton: drove coach on to hard shoulder

home now, but he is very concerned about Ross. He blames himself because he believes Ross would not have been so badly hurt if he had taken the full blow of the block. He said he insisted on going on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme walk.

Mr Comery said he had spoken to Ross's parents. "We heard last night that he is OK. He has undergone an operation on his skull to relieve some pressure. It is not life-threatening, but it is serious and we are all concerned about him."

Keith Marsh, the headmaster of Dartmouth High School, who was not on the trip, said the school was saddened by the attack. He said he had spoken to Ross's mother by telephone yesterday morning.

Keith Watton, the coach driver, said: "Richard was not too bad, he was hobbling about, but Ross was in a bad way. It was a nasty cut. Everything was quiet on the bus. The teachers managed to keep the children calm."

He added: "It could have been a lot worse. The concrete

slabs could have gone through the windscreen and knocked me out then we would have all been killed."

Mr Watton said: "I had taken over the driving about 40 minutes before. We were cruising along the three-lane motorway looking forward to the breakfast break when it happened. Most of the kids were asleep."

"The motorway was clear and I was going at about 55mph and had just overtaken a lorry and was driving in the slow lane when we approached the bridge."

"I saw the coach driver in front slam on his brakes so I knew something was wrong. Next thing you know I heard this loud bang."

"I just thought one of the side windows had gone through. I slammed on the brakes and pulled on to the hard shoulder. But when I turned round there was glass everywhere and these blocks of concrete all over the coach."

Belgian police said that the accident was caused by a foot-square concrete slab thrown from a bridge 115ft to 130ft above the motorway between Liège and Brussels at 5.30pm. A police official said: "If the driver had been hit by the stone, the coach could have hit the barrier or overturned. It could have been a far more serious accident."

The spokesman said that they were treating the incident very seriously with 20 officers working on the case.

A Belgian lorry was slightly damaged by another slab and at least one more was thrown at a second coach. Witnesses said that they saw youths on the bridge at the time of the attack, but by the time police arrived they had disappeared. Rain prevented tracker dogs from picking up their trail, the police official said.



Francis Walker with his new guide dog. For nearly two years his wife was too upset to replace the previous one

## Owners find pet's passing harder to take than relative's death

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

VETS are being increasingly called upon to counsel grief-stricken owners when their pets die. The loss of a dog or cat can be more devastating than the death of a friend or relative, the annual congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association was told at the weekend.

Janet Thomas, who spoke to delegates in Birmingham on bereavement counselling for pet owners, said that some could still be grieving years after the death. She knew of at least three clients who had committed suicide. On average, bereaved owners took six months to a year to come to terms with their loss.

"With the disappearance of the extended family, we are seeing more single and elderly people living on their own, sometimes not even knowing who their next-door neighbour is," Mrs Thomas said. "For such people a companion animal is often a lifeline, offering a kind of idealised human relationship."

Ms Thomas, a vet at Oldham, Lancashire, began studying the subject

after seeing men break down in her consulting rooms. "I found this difficult to handle," she said. "Yet these were men who probably would not have been so openly emotional about the death of another human being."

"This was something for which my veterinary training had not prepared me in any way. Bereavement counselling still has no place in the undergraduate curriculum at veterinary schools."

"The lack of any funeral procedure or other accepted ritual for formally marking the end of a pet's life, often with no grave or known resting-ground, deepens the sense of loss." Deciding to have a sick pet put down could be particularly traumatic. "I have heard clients use the word murder. Feelings of guilt can be profound and vets can cause huge distress by unintentionally insensitive or flippant-sounding remarks."

Vets could help by being good listeners. "A lot of it is simply not being embarrassed or shocked — for example, by people disclosing that they sleep with a dead pet's ashes under the pillow or

keep its body in the deep freeze."

Greta Walker, 71, was devastated when her blind husband's guidedog, a golden retriever called Ellis, had to be put down because of ill-health four years ago. It was 20 months before she could bring herself to get a replacement, even though her husband, Francis, badly needed one. "I cried an awful lot and felt deeply depressed," she said. "Just looking at a photograph, or meeting people in the street who asked me where Ellis was, would be enough to set me off."

She was helped by Maureen Hennis, one of eight voluntary bereavement counsellors working for Pro Dogs, a charity based at Aylesford, Kent. Mr and Mrs Walker now have a good relationship with a new guidedog, Lincoln.

Mrs Hennis said: "I get about five or six calls a week from people from all over the country. Having to put a sick animal to sleep is undoubtedly one of the most stressful situations. Owners can feel desperately guilty. I try to help them by getting them to accept euthanasia as their last act of love for their pets."

## Man on murder charge missing

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN accused of murder was on the run last night after police officers failed to notice that he had not reported to them under his bail conditions for almost three months.

Two officers face disciplinary action over the disappearance of the man, who had been ordered to check in daily at Skipton police station in North Yorkshire.

The man was given bail last September, and was the only person reporting to Skipton police station. He last checked in on January 13, but was found to have jumped bail only when he failed to turn up for a doctor's appointment last month. The doctor informed his solicitor who alerted police at Skipton.

Judge Walsh, Recorder of Leeds, ordered Superintendent Ron Underhill, officer in charge at Skipton, to Leeds Crown Court to explain what had happened. He told the police officer: "I regard this as a serious matter. This was a man who was granted bail because the circumstances warranted it. I would have thought that if the police officers took their duties seriously — knowing that the man was on bail for murder — with strict conditions, as soon as he broke those reporting conditions they would have notified their superiors who would have notified the Crown Prosecution Service."

Judge Walsh directed that the suspect's identity or details of the case should not be disclosed in order to ensure a fair trial.

He added that the public should not be alarmed about the man's disappearance. "All I can say is that I profoundly hope that the police repair the damage, and speedily," he said.

Mr Underhill told the judge that he had no plausible explanation for what had happened.

## Hopes of dinosaur clone face extinction

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

HOPES of reconstructing dinosaurs from DNA preserved in amber are likely to remain science fiction, researchers at the Natural History Museum in London have shown. The method inspired the film *Jurassic Park*, in which scientists recreated the dinosaurs from fragments of DNA preserved in the stomachs of blood-sucking insects.

There have been claims that DNA has been recovered from insects tens of millions of years old preserved in amber. But a team from the museum is soon to report that its efforts to repeat these observations have failed.

Taking precautions against contamination and using a range of methods, Dr Jeremy Austin and colleagues have tried to detect DNA from bees several thousand years old preserved in resin, and from bees 30 million years old preserved in the amber eventually produced by the resin. They will report in *Proceedings of the Royal Society* that the only DNA they have found is of fungal or human origin. No trace of the original bee DNA remains. Amber is permeable to gases and some liquids, making it unable to keep the DNA intact. The



Jurassic Park is still only science fiction

museum's result is in contrast with some widely-publicised claims from other researchers, including George Poinar of the University of California at Berkeley, the original inspiration for Michael Crichton's novel *Jurassic Park*. In 1993 Professor Poinar reported finding beetle DNA from a specimen 125 million years old. DNA has also been reported from a magnolia leaf 17 million years old, and from a termite 25 million years old.

With a technique called polymerase chain reaction, minute fragments of DNA can be multiplied until they reach detectable size. The trouble is that any trace of contamination, such as a flake of skin, is also multiplied and can produce a false result.

The museum's findings will disappoint many scientists, not because they expected to reconstruct dinosaurs, but because they hoped that studying ancient DNA would be useful in understanding relationships between living groups of animals.

## Greek snails in olive oil the long-life recipe



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE large southern Greek snail contains the most health-giving fats in just the correct proportions, and its regular consumption, after being cooked in olive oil, may be one of many factors that makes Cretans the longest-living people in Europe.

Doctors discussing 50 years of research into the Mediterranean diet have been told that the average family in Crete, where they are meeting, still eat snails cooked in olive oil three times a week.

In southern Greece olive oil is used plentifully in cooking, and olives are eaten with plenty of rough bread, a wide variety of green vegetables and fruits as well as fish, cheese, mutton and red wine.

During the Second World War, when rationing restricted people's choice of food, a marked reduction in heart disease in Europe was noted. In consequence, in 1947 scientists recruited 10,000 middle-aged men from 16 centres in seven countries to study the relationship between their food, lifestyle and health.

Medical theories are often rediscovered and one of Napoleon's doctors, Professor Corvisart, recommended a diet that is remarkably similar to the one being analysed in Crete this week. Corvisart not only praised the use of olive oil, suggested a reduction in animal fat and the avoidance of "too plentiful a table", but understood the importance of having the opportunity "to satisfy the natural affections" and the virtues of regular exercise.

Samuel Black, an early 19th-century Irish physician in Newry, Co Down, was much influenced by Corvisart's book after his friend, a Mr Carson, collapsed and died drinking chocolate. At his post-mortem examination

Dr Black was surprised to find that Mr Carson's coronary arteries were so calcified that they resembled the stem of a clay pipe. Thereafter, the arteries were prominently displayed in Dr Black's house and acted as a warning to his other friends and patients to follow his advice.

Alun Evans, of Queen's University, Belfast, continues to teach the importance of Dr Black's theories, now suitably modified, and lectured in Crete on the effect on health of the differences in lifestyle in northern and southern Europe.

Variations in diet and exercise interact with genetic factors and result in a death rate from heart disease four times greater in Northern Ireland than southern France. There is a fivefold greater likelihood of dying from coronary heart disease in North America or northern Europe than in the southern parts of Europe where the traditional Mediterranean diet is still taken.

The advantages of the liberal use of olive oil to prevent coronary heart disease and cardiac arrhythmias is increasingly well understood. Olive oil is a mono-unsaturated fat, avoiding the problems related to consumption of saturated fats, and it has the advantage that its use for thousands of years has failed to reveal any side-effects.

Professor Evans is keenly interested in the value to health of the natural antioxidants in the Mediterranean such as those found in olives and tomatoes.

The variety of vegetables and fruit eaten in southern Europe also helps to ensure good health: whereas a traditional northern European chooses from about 15 green vegetables, in Crete more than 100 different wild or cultivated plants are still eaten regularly.

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## ELECTION 97

POLL DAY

-25

**'It is hard to believe that Frosty was once the scourge of wrongdoers'**

Nicholas Wapshott - page 11

■ One constituency where the election will end tonight - p10  
 ■ Constitution hogs Labour's limelight in Scotland. MICHAEL GOVE - p9  
 ■ Guide to election issues: foreign policy - p8

**'My skeletons are very much out of the cupboard'**

Mr Nice - page 11

## Brown plans to raise £122bn with sale of state assets

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN, the Shadow Chancellor, yesterday announced that he was preparing an extensive sell-off of state assets valued at up to £122 billion as Labour finally ditched its historic opposition to privatisation.

Mr Brown said that he would immediately set up a swift inventory of property, land, plan, machinery and other assets held by government departments to root out waste and inefficiency.

His aides also made clear that he would consider any privatisations, including

Channel Four, Parforce and other Royal Mail agencies, and the National Air Traffic Control system - sell-offs they have previously strongly opposed. London Underground is the only privatisation that would not be an option.

In a final break with the party's former commitment to nationalisation, Tony Blair will say to businessmen today: "Where there is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services - particularly where those services operate in a competitive market - then the

presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector, with market forces being encouraged to operate."

Mr Blair's speech in the City will underline not only his party's conversion, but his own. In 1986 he said: "Privatisation is destroying the idea of public service in Britain. The interests of consumers are being sacrificed on the altar of big business."

Labour's business manifesto, to be published this week, makes no bones about the Labour leadership's intention. As soon as Labour takes office there would be a comprehensive spending review, matched by a "thorough and speedy national inventory of the assets owned by central government. We will not hold assets that have no further use or allow the wasteful duplication of resources across departments. If there is no need for departments to hold property, land or other assets, they will be required to sell them."

Mr Brown, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, added: "I am certainly going to apply, in the iron grip that we will have on public spending and the use of public resources, a clear test. If it is of no use to the public sector, if there is duplication of resources, we will sort it out."

Mr Brown is already questioning why employment offices, social security offices and regional government offices coexist in some towns and cities. "We are sure that, as well as improving the efficiency with which assets are used and as well as reallocating within departments, we will also be able to release several billion pounds over the lifetime of the next Parliament," Mr Brown's spokesman said.

Labour has been working for the last eight months with a top accountancy firm to assess the use of assets within government departments. Labour sources made clear the review could be used to free resources for front line services, such as teachers and doctors. Aides also made clear that both the Health Department and the Ministry of Defence, which owns vast areas of land, could be the first targets.

But the proposals were sharply attacked by both Liberal Democrats and the Tories. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, doubted that the selling-off of assets to raise money "on the cheap" was in the interests of the taxpayer.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, claimed Labour was now in full retreat. "The revelation shows that our attacks on the £12 billion black hole at the heart of Labour's public expenditure plans have thrown Labour high command into total panic."

Mr Heseltine said Mr Blair's comments signalled the abandoning of "its historic and consistent opposition to privatisation". Mr Blair was "casting aside his principles like ballast from his sinking balloon".

GORDON BROWN has consistently denied Tory taunts that there is a £12 billion gap between his spending plans for 1997-98 and 1998-99 and those put forward by the Government. (Jill Sherman writes). The Tories have derived the figure, which they have dubbed "the £12 billion black hole" from a number of different areas, including shortfalls in Labour's privatisation receipts, spending pledges and tax cuts. Labour rebutted these claims until last Thursday when Mr Brown admitted for the first time that there was a £1.5 billion gap in his plans for 1998-99.

**THE TORY CHARGE:** Labour faces a £1.5 billion shortfall on privatisation receipts in year two, 1998-99. The Tories are planning to sell off some unspecified Next Step agencies and the National Air Traffic Control, which would raise £0.5 billion. They also plan to raise £480 million on private finance in the NHS and claim Labour is not. Labour: the party says it would now consider privatising the air traffic control system and will keep private finance in the NHS.

**THE TORY CHARGE:** Labour has said it would repeal cuts in lone parent benefits worth £60 million. Labour: now says it will keep the cuts, unless it can make savings in other social security areas.

**THE TORY CHARGE:** Labour would spend £2.5 billion in each of two years by allowing local councils to spend receipts from the sale of council houses. Labour says that the commitment would only cost £1 billion, will be phased and will be self-financed.

**THE TORY CHARGE:** Labour's plans to end youth unemployment, to help the long-term jobless and to change benefit rules to let people work more hours before losing State help, would cost over £1.6 billion in each of the two years. Although this would be offset by Labour's plans to introduce a windfall tax, the Tories say this would bring in only £600 million a year. Labour: says £3 billion windfall tax would cover the costs.

**THE TORY CHARGE:** VAT cut from 8 per cent to 5 per cent would cost £340m a year. Labour say this would be paid for by tackling tax abuse loopholes, and ending tax relief on private medical insurance for over-60s.

**THE TORY CHARGE:** Labour to spend £640m on school repairs. Labour says private sector would bear some of the cost through local authority partnership rules and there would be no additional public spending.

**THE TORY CHARGE:** Labour faces a £1.9 billion shortfall from its plans on student loans. Labour: says that the risk of lending should be transferred to the private sector but gives no figure on cost.



John Major bids Baroness Thatcher farewell yesterday as she leaves Conservative Central Office in London

## Lady Thatcher pays tribute to Major's 'magnificent years'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

BARONESS THATCHER delivered her strongest tribute to John Major yesterday, praising his "magnificent stewardship" of the past six years.

She told 300 Conservative candidates and MPs at Conservative Central Office in London that it was thanks to Mr Major and the Government "that we have such a high level of prosperity and a high reputation in the world". She said: "I am here to support him."

Lady Thatcher, who in private over the years has been less than enthusiastic about her successor, appeared determined to kill any suggestions that she would be happy if Tony Blair reached Downing Street. She spoke of a return to trade union "bully boys" and the handover of "Parliament's powers to Brussels if Labour won power."

Lady Thatcher said that Britain's prosperity and its high reputation "didn't just happen". "We Conservatives made it happen. The Conservatives have convictions, fundamental beliefs to serve the people and to create a framework of law within which enterprise and responsibility can flourish."

Her warmth for Mr Major was clear. But it was plain that she was also motivated by a desire to protect her legacy. She said it was because of the Conservatives' beliefs that the party was able to cut taxation so that people kept more of their money to spend on their families.

She added: "We cut the power of the trade unions and most of the trade unionists were with us. It was only the bully boys who fought against it. We privatised industries because governments do not know how to run them. Only industry knows that. And we fought communism and together with the USA we brought it down. It was all because of our convictions, and we had no fellow travellers in the Labour Party."

She spoke of Labour's "conversion of convenience", but said that "whatever the soft words, Labour is still interventionist in its very psyche". She attacked Gordon Brown's plan to bring in a windfall tax

on the privatised utilities, describing it as "a tax on success", which would take away money that could be used for capital investment.

She described Mr Blair's plan to sign Britain up to the European Union Social Chapter as socialism by the back door. "The Social Chapter is a way of imposing the socialist model on this country. If there isn't socialism through the front door, it will come through the back door. We would suffer every single regulation that the European socialist bureaucracy would wish if Labour was allowed to get its way. Even now they are discussing how to increase majority voting and reduce the power of the veto."

Lady Thatcher added: "In the next three months the destiny of our country will be set for a decade or longer because of the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam. They will try to take away the veto; that is why we must see our Prime Minister John Major and our Government returned at this election, so that there can be no diminishing power of the nation state."

## Youth vote impressed by image above ability

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

POLITICIANS seeking the youth vote should smarten their image instead of worrying about their manifestos, according to psychologists. Young voters rate integrity and charisma as the most important qualities in a political leader and place less value on their competence.

Professor Mark Pancer and his colleagues, of Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, say that personalities count for more than policies in an election. The researchers compared the attitudes of three groups of students from Canada, America and Britain to 15 national and international political and public figures. The students were asked to rate each figure on a set of 40 characteristics grouped into four categories of integrity, charisma, competence and strength.

The study, carried out in 1993, showed that John Major was ranked lower for charisma than any other national or international political or public figure. His score of 2.31 fell below that of Prince Charles at 2.67. The highest score awarded by the British voters, 3.59, was held jointly by President Clinton and the pop star Madonna.

On integrity, the highest rating from the British group went to John Smith, then leader of the Labour Party. Baroness Thatcher was rated highest on strength and competence, closely followed by Boris Yeltsin. The students were also asked to rate their overall impression of each leader or public figure on a "feeling thermometer" by giving them a score out of 100. The students were told that a score above 50 indicated warm feelings while below 50 indicated coolness.

British voters judged both national and world leaders more harshly than either their American or Canadian counterparts. No public figure scored over 50 in Britain compared with four who exceeded this score in both America and Canada.

The findings, presented to the British Psychological Society's conference in Edinburgh yesterday, showed that integrity was the most important determinant of voters' overall feelings. Although Lady Thatcher scored highly on strength and competence, she was ranked lowest overall.

Professor Pancer said British and American voters appeared not to care whether their politicians could do the job, so long as they were honest. "There doesn't seem to be a very strong relationship between who they see as hard-working, capable and experienced, and who they rate highest overall. Integrity is the most important factor - being honest, caring, trustworthy, and open minded."

Professor Pancer said the findings showed that Mr Major should show leadership and put principles above cynicism. "There is a tremendous concentration on sleaze in this campaign which is a natural outgrowth of the concern with personality. Character attacks are effective. Mud sticks."

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# BALLOT 97

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 14. Foreign policy

## Labour aims to outflank Tories on human rights

FOREIGN policy does not win elections. Unless there is a national humiliation or resounding triumph — Suez or the Falklands — voters rarely focus on the world beyond Britain. While Europe will be covered later in the campaign in an election guide of its own, today's guide focuses on relations with the rest of the world.

Beyond Europe there is little division between the parties. On the broad themes — relations with the United States, arms control, Nato, support for Eastern Europe, the United Nations, the global environment and the expansion of world trade — Labour policy differs only imperceptibly from that of the Conservatives.

Arguments over foreign policy tend to be within parties more than between them, creating unusual

alliances. The war in Bosnia was a classic example: support for the Muslims and calls for intervention against the Serbs united many on the Left with those on the Right. Other contentious regional issues — Cyprus, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Kashmir and Hong Kong — divide MPs into cross-party lobby groups bitterly at odds with each other.

There has been little debate about foreign policy in the past five years for two main reasons. Firstly, Douglas Hurd attempted to steer a bipartisan course and was able, with a patriotic image and the suggestion that he was a "safe pair of hands", to imply that government policy reflected a national consensus. Europe was the exception. Secondly, Labour gave low priority to a field so barren in opportunities for partisan advan-

tage. Two of Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretaries, Gerald Kaufman and Jack Cunningham, were not party heavyweights and made little public impression.

For almost a year after his appointment, Robin Cook gave every indication that he did not want the job and was itching for a return to the cut-and-thrust of domestic politics. It is only in the past six months, with the apparent inevitability of his move to the Foreign Office, that he has shown mastery of the detail, especially on the imminent issues of Hong Kong and the EU inter-governmental conference.

Mr Hurd hoped to stimulate a national debate in 1995 with the sponsorship of an academic conference on Britain's place in the world. His aim was to identify British

diplomatic and global strengths, boost public support for peacekeeping, English language broadcasts and teaching and, more pointedly, send a message to the Treasury that the Foreign Office budget, one of the smallest in Whitehall, could not be cut further without harming Britain's political and commercial interests. But the conference produced little — largely because it was wholly uncontentious.

Labour supports the increasing use of British troops for peacekeeping, the goodwill generated by the British Council and the BBC, and the need for diplomacy to focus on export promotion. It is concentrating its campaign, therefore, on two areas where the Conservative

record is weakest: overseas development and human rights. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Minister for Overseas Development, has held the same job longer than any other minister, a forceful advocate for Africa and of tying aid to good government.

But under the Conservatives, overseas aid spending has fallen from 0.51 per cent of GNP to an all-time low of 0.29 per cent. Labour promises to raise this amount to 0.7 per cent, the target set by the United Nations. It also promises to create a separate Cabinet-level Ministry of International Development and to target aid to the world's poorest nations. It criticises especially the funneling of aid to wealthier nations, and the Government's actions over the Pergau dam in Malaysia as an illegal linking of

aid to trade. On human rights, Labour also intends to take a more robust line. The Conservatives have strongly criticised abuses in Nigeria, Burma and China.

But Mr Cook has promised to recommend full oil sanctions against the military regime in Nigeria and intends to make human rights a more decisive yardstick in dealing with other countries. The obvious targets are the sheikhdoms of the Gulf, where Labour believes that Britain has turned a blind eye to abuses in order to safeguard lucrative contracts. Whether Labour would risk offending Saudi Arabia and jeopardising huge arms exports remains unclear.

In several areas Labour intends to outflank the Conservatives by emphasising support for causes

that have languished under the Tories. Mr Cook insists he will increase support for the British Council and the BBC World Service, though no budget figures are given. A more emotional issue is the Commonwealth. Labour believes that the Conservatives were so antagonised by Commonwealth opposition to British policy towards apartheid South Africa that they have since written off this 53-nation body.

Labour promises to do more to revive political and economic links, use the Commonwealth to advance Third World interests and show greater solidarity with Commonwealth members at the United Nations, also a body it accuses the Conservatives of neglecting.

Leading article, page xx

## Two views of Britain's place in the world

FOR the past 19 years Britain has consistently "punched above its weight", the Conservatives claim. The turning point, they insist, was the 1982 Falklands War. This not only won Britain global military and political credibility but also engaged Margaret Thatcher's interest in foreign affairs for the first time.

The claim is based largely on the extraordinary set of circumstances in the 1980s that gave Britain a unique influence in Washington at a time when West Germany had limited room for manoeuvre and France still dreamed of an independent world role.

Lady Thatcher forged a particularly close relationship with President Reagan — so much so that she was able to influence his decisions on arms control, East-West diplomacy and Nato strategy. The Gulf War reinforced this, with British participation vital. The strong links continued under President Bush and John Major. They ended abruptly with the election of President Clinton, who made little secret of his dislike of Mr Major.

After the cataclysmic collapse of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, the world has been relatively peaceful. Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa; Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo accords; Cambodia negotiated a peace settlement; and democracy was consolidated in Latin America and much of Eastern Europe. But one intractable issue dominated British foreign policy and preoccupied the Western alliance: the war in Bosnia.

When fighting began in 1992, Britain's swift offer of troops and visible involvement in the humanitarian convoys established its vital role in the international response. Britain and France, with the largest troop contingents, began a period of mili-

tary co-operation, with lasting political and military implications. From the start, Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, was determined that Britain would not be sucked into the hostilities: he sensed there was no public support for intervention, despite revulsion at the pictures of ethnic cleansing and Serb ill-treatment of Bosnian Muslims.

Denouncing the "something-must-be-done" clamour for an interventionist role for the United Nations troops, he was also adamant that any lifting of the arms embargo would only fuel more savage fighting and make the UN forces targets for Bosnian Serb fighters. He would not, he famously remarked, tolerate a "level killing field".

His stand, shared by the European allies — though opposed by Lady Thatcher, now out of office, who called for a sharp military response — brought Britain into conflict with the Clinton Administration, which wanted to arm the mainly Muslim Bosnian Government. One of the most serious transatlantic disputes since Suez developed. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, tried in vain to change European opinion; the rift soured relations between Britain and America and exacerbated reports that the Clinton Administration had not forgiven Mr Major his apparent backing for George Bush during the 1992 presidential election campaign.

Bosnia highlighted two other preoccupations of Western policy: establishing a co-operative relationship with Russia, and formulating a new role for Nato. Britain has taken a lead in encouraging market reform in Russia; for the Conservatives, the Russians' admiration for Lady Thatcher and their readiness to begin huge



Britain's swift offer of troops for Bosnia gave it a vital role in resolving the conflict, with lasting political implications

privatisation programmes were an opportunity to demonstrate Britain's pioneering experience. The Know-How Fund set a pattern as one of the more successful ways of helping post-communist economies. Labour supported the outreach to Russia.

All the main parties in Britain agree on the need to retain Nato as a linchpin of American involvement in Europe; all agree that the alliance must remain to prevent the re-emergence of separate national defence policies in the West. But neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats pushed for a public debate on Nato's changed military priorities; nor did they challenge the Government's unquestioning acceptance three years ago of the American call for Nato enlargement — despite strong private reservations within all parties at the time.

The Government claimed some credit for two other momentous changes since 1992: the end of apartheid and the tentative steps towards Middle East peace. The Thatcher governments always insisted that dialogue, rather than sanctions, would give Britain

greater influence in Pretoria: certainly the British Embassy was important in encouraging the contacts between President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela. Labour consistently called for tougher sanctions; but with the end of apartheid and the election of President Mandela the evidence was equivocal on which approach had been the most effective.

The Middle East, an area of traditional British influence, saw the signing of peace accords between Israel, under the Government of Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated in 1995, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Israel subsequently withdrew from certain occupied territory, and its relations with Jordan and Norway played the leading outside roles in the peace process, but Britain maintained close contact with all sides and offered extensive aid and training to the Palestinians. In the Gulf, it remained one of the main supporters and trading partners of the traditional rulers and an implacable foe of any softening of sanctions against Iraq. Little of this was domestic-

ly contentious. But the Government was caught unaware by the sudden emergence of London as a haven for Islamic radicals expelled by conservative Arab governments, many of them closely tied to Britain. The case that caused greatest embarrassment was that of Muhammad al-Masari, a Saudi radical. In response to a furious Saudi reaction, the Home Office attempted, in vain, to deport him. The issue was seized on by Labour as an indication that Britain's policy towards the Gulf was too craven and too driven by arms exports.

The Government was equally embarrassed by the row over the Pergau Dam, a large aid project in Malaysia where the Government was accused of illegally using trade promotion money to finance the project. A court ruled against Mr Hurd; and Pergau became a symbol for the Opposition of a general Conservative mismanagement of overseas aid.

The Conservatives insist that "punching above our weight", in Mr Hurd's words, will remain valid as long as Britain retains its UN Security Council seat and readiness to

contribute forces to UN peacekeeping. Labour does not deny the advantage of a strong foreign policy, insisting that it too gave unanimous support to the Falklands and Gulf wars, to German unification, democracy in Russia and to all the areas where Britain's influence was crucial.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats, however, accuse the Government of hypocrisy in trying to maintain a global foreign policy while cutting the Foreign Office budget. The past five years have been hard: jobs have been pared, embassies shut and funds reduced for aid, culture and overseas broadcasting.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats insist that Britain must cut its coat according to its cloth. There must be no more delusions that, isolated in Europe, it can play the bridge between America and the Continent, or maintain a global role without closer integration of foreign and defence policy with its European partners. The Tories disagree. As with so much, Britain's place in the world will be largely determined by Britain's place in Europe.

### THE POLITICIANS

#### MALCOLM RIFKIND

Age: 50  
Education: George Watson's College, University of Edinburgh.  
Family: married, one son, one daughter.  
Experience: QC, MP for Edinburgh Pentlands since 1974. Foreign Secretary since 95. Parliamentary Under-Secretary at Scottish Office, 79-82; Minister of State at Foreign Office, 83-86; Scottish Secretary 86-90; Transport Secretary 90-92; Defence Secretary, 92-95. Politics: determinedly centrist, having moved to Right from earlier Euro-enthusi-



asm. Ambitious and now positioning himself as compromise party leader. Performance: knowledgeable, effective and able speaker. Sometimes aloof.

#### ROBIN COOK

Age: 51  
Education: Aberdeen Grammar, Royal High School, Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh.  
Family: married, two sons.  
Experience: MP for Livingston since 1983, MP for Edinburgh Central 74-83. Shadow Foreign Secretary since 94. Previously Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, 92-94; Shadow Health and Social Services Secretary 87-92. A member of Labour's National Executive Committee and its National Policy Forum. Politics: on Left but com-



mitted moderniser. Long-time rival of Gordon Brown. Performance: one of best orators in the House. Combative and partisan.

### WHAT THEY SAID

We have not been, and are not, willing to begin some form of military intervention which we judge useless or worse, simply because of pressures from the media. Douglas Hurd, on Bosnia, 1993

What we cannot do, we should not pretend to do. It is empty to pretend that we can impose peace with justice on every disorder or dispute outside our national borders. But what we decide to do, we must do well. John Major, 1993

We have our laws and we have a tradition of free speech, but what we do not have, and what we repudiate, is any tradition of encouraging terrorism. Douglas Hurd on granting asylum to Islamic radicals, 1994

No substitute has been found for the energy which wells up through the nation state. Douglas Hurd, 1996

We must be active wherever our national interests are at stake, and they are at stake throughout the world. Malcolm Rifkind, 1995

The partnership of Europe and America working together delivers results, diplomatic and military. Any arrangements we devise for the future must reflect that. Malcolm Rifkind, 1996

We commit to peace support and humanitarian operations, even in places far from home, for simple and yet fundamental reasons. We are a civilised nation. Michael Portillo, 2 Jan 1997

### THE FACTS

□ Britain has 215 overseas embassies and consulates, compared with Germany with 240, Italy with 253 and France with 286.

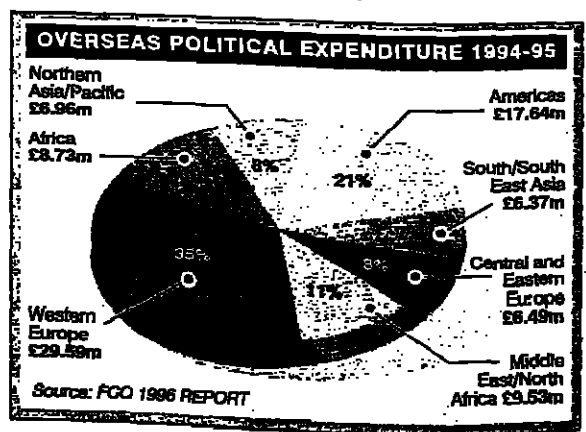
□ Running the Foreign Office costs £1.3 billion a year, half of which is spent on the British Council, the BBC World Service, the United Nations and peacekeeping.

□ Some 8.6 million British citizens live overseas, and 34 million travel abroad. Britain ranks fifth for international trade, and exports are worth more per head than those of the United States or Japan. Britain exports a quarter of all it produces.

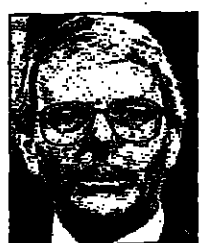
□ Britain's stock of direct foreign investment is second only to America's, and is twice as large, relative to GDP, as Germany's or Japan's.

□ English is the native language of 350 million people. It has official status in 70 countries, and 60 per cent of all scientists speak it.

□ The estimate for the total number of applications for visas to enter Britain in 1996 was almost 1.5 million, an increase of more than 17 per cent over 1995. Some 95 per cent of these applications are for tourist visits or study.



### CONSERVATIVES



Hong Kong: backing for Chris Patten's democracy reforms. Warning to China that Britain will continue to monitor human rights and Chinese compliance with 1984 Joint Declaration after handover in July.

Peace-keeping: British successes to be emphasised, though opposition to new UN operations without finance or exit strategy.

Nato enlargement: strong support for enlargement, but emphasis on successful negotiation of Nato-Russia agreement.

Relations with America: bedrock of foreign policy. Will attempt to make relations less dependent on Nato with new free trade agreement and parliamentary assembly.

Aid and development: opposition to increase in multilateral aid at the expense of bilateral aid. Aid budget unlikely to increase: assistance to be tied to "good government". Will continue the Know-How Fund for former communist countries.

Human rights: support for Iraqi, Burmese and Nigerian opposition, but not emphasised in campaign. Wary about extending Nigerian sanctions, but no let-up in Iraq.

Diplomatic service: commitment to service at present level, though retrenchment likely in Africa and more trade promotion in Latin America and South East Asia. Will support British Council and BBC World Service, but search for private funding to make up for likely further cuts.

### LABOUR



Hong Kong: as strongly committed to human rights as the Tories. A Labour government would have responsibility for the last two months of British rule. Relations with China are seen as a challenge.

Peace-keeping: commitment to support UN operations with troops. But will insist that Britain should not take on more than its size allows. Promise to review arms exports.

Nato enlargement: Labour cautious, but strongly supports integration of Eastern Europe in EU.

Relations with America: Blair-Clinton chemistry likely to be better than present relations with Tories, with consequent close political links.

Aid and development: to have much higher profile, with Overseas Development Administration transformed into Department of International Development headed by Cabinet minister. Calls for new focus on poorest countries, and commitment to raise percentage of GNP spent on aid from 0.29 to 0.7, the UN target. Less attention to richer countries, and review of links between aid and trade.

Human Rights: main policy difference with Tories. Tougher line towards all rogue regimes. Will call for oil sanctions against Nigeria.

Diplomatic service: more emphasis on export promotion; top businessmen may be appointed ambassadors in growing markets. Commitment to boost British Council and BBC World Service, but no budget promises.

### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Hong Kong: policy little different from Labour's and Conservatives'. Urging all remaining colonies to seek regional co-operation.

Peace-keeping: activist role proposed, and more co-operation with European nations. Failure to intervene earlier in Bosnia condemned. Cuts proposed on arms exports, and long-term cut in defence budget.

Nato enlargement: lukewarm support and only on condition that it fits with EU enlargement. Seen as less important than reshaping Nato and OSCE. Greater role proposed for European Nato operations as part of common European foreign policy.

Relations with America: central, but less emphasis on working with Washington and more on co-operation with European partners.

Aid and development: important plank of policy. More co-ordination with EU projects. Strong support for Know-How Fund, and commitment to bringing British aid up to UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. Greater targeting of aid to poorest countries.

Human rights: traditional strong interest. Support for democracy activists in East Timor, the Gulf, Nigeria etc. Emphasis on emancipation of women around the world.

Diplomatic service: attempt to restore some of the cuts in Foreign Office budget. Promise to support British Council and BBC World Service.

Handwritten note: "The Times 1997"



# Scots Tories' travails provide portent of wider strife

IF YOU want to know what life will be like in Blair's Britain, read the newspaper reports from Scotland. As one Scots émigré remarked: "We have seen the future and it's tartan."

The election of a Labour government could see the dramas that have convulsed Scotland over the past fortnight played out across the United Kingdom. It is often said, north of the border, that a very different election campaign is going on, but when you talk to Scottish voters and watch politicians on the stump in Scotland, the sense is not so much of a foreign country but of the future.

A rump Conservative Party cannot unite behind an effective leader called Michael — in this case, Forsyth — because of vicious feuding. A dominant Labour Party faces mutiny on the left and unrest among activists. And the voters are denied a debate on broad-and-butt issues because the intricacies of devolution dominate the headlines.

When Tony Blair came to Glasgow on Friday to launch his party's Scottish manifesto, he expressed exasperation that the press conference was



Current political conflicts north of the border could turn out to be a dress rehearsal for a UK-wide drama, writes Michael Gove

dominated by constitutional matters. All but one of the journalists' questions turned on the powers of a body which does not yet exist — the Scottish parliament. The volume and vehemence of the questions, which quite unsettled Mr Blair, were evidence not of a strange obsession on the part of the Scottish media but rather of the journalistic instinct for the jugular. In a *Scotsman* interview, Mr Blair had appeared to compare a Scottish parliament to a parish council, and the pack scented blood. Some of the most direct questions came from representatives of the London media. They were not concerned with the intricacies of sovereignty but they did know when a politician appeared to be on weak ground.

Mr Blair had cause to feel aggrieved. The electorate in Scotland, like the rest of the

United Kingdom are more concerned with health, crime and the economy than the constitution.

However, the importance of the constitution in this election is a consequence of Labour policy. If devolution proposals had not been so vigorously promoted by Labour and then redefined to rid them of supposed weaknesses, there would be room to concentrate on other issues. But, given how uncomfortable Mr Blair seems with the issue, it is natural for journalists, and voters to ask why.

Mr Blair's annoyance at the crowding out of other issues is not likely to abate if Labour are elected. With pledges to legislate for referendums on devolution, the consequent long campaigns and then more legislation to actually introduce assemblies, constitutional reform

will dominate Labour's first year. Voters anxious to see progress in other areas will find parliamentary time dominated by arcane disputes about the West Lothian Question and the revised Goschen-Barnett block grant formula.

One English Labour frontbencher commented even before last week's controversy: "We'll have new Labour MPs elected in marginals like Worcester keen to deliver for the people who voted for them and their time will be taken up legislating for Scotland and Wales."

It is not only in England that disquiet might surface. Some Scottish Labour MPs now remain disciplined and quiet but privately promise to agitate for maximum power for the Scottish parliament after the election.

The Tories foresee that defeat would offer the opportunity to divert the Labour government's attention from other matters. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade and MP for Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, has invited Labour to "make my day," by introducing complex devolution legislation in the



Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, who clashed in the months preceding Margaret Thatcher's fall

first session of the new parliament.

But the Conservatives have their own troubles. The scandals that have afflicted the Scottish party with one MP resigning after disclosures of alcohol problems and a relationship with a woman, as well as their chairman quitting after an alleged homo-

sexual "indiscretion" have been depicted by some as a peculiarly Caledonian affair. The Scots Tories' problems are not, however, evidence of Celtic fondness for a feud. Rather, they are the consequence of minority status and the psychology of defeat.

The battles between the Thatcherite Forsyth and the

moderate Malcolm Rifkind in late 1989 and early 1990, were the prelude to the *Götterdämmerung* of Mrs Thatcher's rule. Now, according to one veteran of those conflicts, the current warfare in the Scots Tories, with colleagues briefing against each other, is a portent of what will happen to the party

across the United Kingdom in the event of defeat.

Some Tories see glimmers of hope. The same old hand believes that Mr Forsyth's ability to provide the Scots Tories with a degree of campaigning coherence could show the way for the rest of the party.

Former pro-devolution dissidents, such as the Scots Tory candidate in Dumfries, Struan Stevenson are now diehards for the Union. Once a party has faced defeat, the hope is that talented figures may be less likely to pursue freelance policies if given a strong lead from the top.

One Cabinet minister recently confided his fear that at a time when the United Kingdom had at last become a successful brand name in the increasingly competitive global market, the country was preparing to indulge in an unnecessary and introspective debate about restructuring.

His worries about introspection may apply with even greater force to his own party in the event of defeat. Variants of the internal battles now being fought on Scottish turf could consume the entire Conservative Party.

## Ashdown says spin is killing real issues

By Polly Newton

LABOUR and Conservative policies are being dictated by "spin doctors" purely to woo certain groups of voters, according to Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats. Mr Ashdown will say in a speech tomorrow night that the beliefs of the two parties' leaders no longer count.

He will claim that the focus on a relatively small number of potential "switchers" — voters who supported the Conservatives in 1992 but may back Labour this time — effectively puts the spin doctors in charge. A source close to Mr Ashdown said last night that the Liberal Democrat leader believed vision and principles should be paramount in any political campaign. But, he said: "The key person now is the political 'mechanic' — the person behind the scenes who knows what issues have to be addressed to switch key voters. That has become a problem. Everyone has become so obsessed with what focus groups are telling them."

Although the Liberal Democrats have made no secret of their decision to concentrate their limited campaign resources on seats they believe they can win, a party spokesman said that was not the same as tailoring policies to particular sets of voters.

Mr Ashdown will argue that there is a danger of politicians ignoring serious issues, and large sections of society, because they are told by their spin doctors that they offer no electoral advantage.

He will say that the Liberal Democrats are prepared to look to the long term rather than attempting to achieve short-term gains by espousing policies dreamed up specifically to attract support from target groups.

Peter Stothard, page 20

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Labour MP forced out by illness

Labour MP William McKelvey, 62, has announced he will not be standing for re-election to the Kilmarnock and Loudoun seat in Ayrshire. He confirmed yesterday that a sudden health problem had persuaded him reluctantly to stand down.

He is thought to have been taken ill while canvassing last Wednesday. The constituency is a target seat for the Scottish National Party. Mr McKelvey saw Labour's majority halved by the SNP to just under 7,000 in 1992.

### Game target

Owners of shooting and fishing estates, including the Queen, could be affected by new taxes under a Labour government. The party is considering reintroducing sporting rates — duties on game, stags and fish shot or caught on their land — across Britain. The move would be worth £10 million to the Treasury.

### Knighthood row

Sir Michael Gyles, who is not seeking re-election as MP for Surrey North West, denied he acted improperly by seeking a knighthood for Jeffrey Whalley, a major donor to the Tory party. He did so at the request of a lobbyist, Derek Laud. Sir Michael has admitted misleading Parliament over his payments from Ian Greer.

### Dealers warned

This could be the first general election in which City traders who spread false rumours about opinion poll results are detected and prosecuted. Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, says it is "outrageous" that the markets have been manipulated in previous elections, and believes the technology exists to locate the source of rumours.

## Jobs report timing upsets churchmen

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

SENIOR Anglican church leaders are concerned that a sensitive church inquiry into unemployment has been timed deliberately to create maximum impact in the election campaign.

The report, *Unemployment and the Future of Work*, to be published tomorrow by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland as a result of an 18-month inquiry led by the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, is a damaging attack on 18 years of Conservative rule. It calls for a statutory minimum wage and negotiating rights for trade unions.

But, although Christian socialist in tone, it also contains criticisms of the Labour Party's reluctance to embrace the harsh reality of higher taxation if public services are to be improved. According to one source, some church leaders are annoyed at the timing of the report because of the impact it will have on the election campaign. "It is a theological reflection on urban problems, and particularly on

unemployment, but there are no easy answers to these," said the source.

Although an October publication date had been considered, April was chosen because it was felt that it would result in maximum publicity. The report, backed by leaders of the 12 main denominations in Britain, has been strongly influenced by Church Action on Poverty, an ecumenical pressure group which recruited long-term unemployed people and submitted a lengthy paper based on their discussions.

Niall Cooper, national co-ordinator of Church Action on Poverty, said: "It is critical of all political parties. None is seriously addressing the issue of unemployment. They are more concerned with tax reductions. The report will talk about taxation as a positive social good."

Sponsors include the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey and Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster.

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# Tories accuse Labour of five serious U-turns since start of campaign

CHRIS HARRIS

ROBIN COOK's hardening of Labour's position on a single European currency is the latest campaign shift by the party, which was accused at the weekend of making policy on the hoof. Labour also confirmed yesterday that key concessions promised to the unions were being dropped and that Gordon Brown is considering the privatisation of assets, land and buildings worth millions of pounds.

Tony Blair will tell the City today: "I believe that where there is no overriding reason for preferring public provision of goods and services then the assumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector."

The Tories yesterday accused Labour of changing its policies, alleging that it had made five distinct policy U-turns since the campaign began. Here are the claims

Philip Webster gives his assessment of the claims made by the Tories yesterday that Labour has made five separate policy reversals since the start of the campaign

and our assessment of the extent of the shift, if any.

On privatisation, the Tories claim that after years of attacking the policy Labour has now embraced it as a way of finding money to fill the "black hole" in its finances. There was nothing in the manifesto about it.

While the revision of Clause 4 saw Labour embracing the market and the private sector, it was only recently, when it emerged that Gordon Brown was considering selling the Tate, that the idea of Labour being prepared to countenance privatisation emerged.

Since the "black hole" was identified specific assets have been mentioned for the first time — Paycellforce, Channel 4, the Air Traffic Control System — even though the transport spokesman, Andrew Smith said last year "our air is not for sale" and recent policy documents have committed Labour to keeping Channel 4 in the public sector. Verdict: a fairly comprehensive U-turn.

On Scotland the Tories say that Labour, having decided to give the Scots their Parliament and tax-varying powers, now say that it will not be able to put up taxes for five years.

Labour has already watered down devolution by insisting on a referendum on tax-raising. When *The Times* reported it would not be able to raise taxes for a Parliament this was denied. Mr Blair confirmed it on Friday, although, to be fair, the pledge was in the Scottish Labour manifesto published on the same day. Verdict: U-turn, but it was already under way.

On the unions the Tories say that Mr Blair has gone back on earlier promises to give the unions new rights.

Mr Blair is now saying that he cannot guarantee legislation on union recognition in his first year; and that he will not give part-time workers the same rights as full-time workers, nor fulfil promises to reduce from two years to six months the time before which they claim unfair dismissal. Verdict: substantial climbdown.

On the single currency, the Tories allege that Robin Cook, having said there were "formi-



Tony Blair: accused on privatisation, Scotland, unions, EMU and terrorism

dable obstacles" in the way of first-wave membership under Labour, has now made a "gaffe" suggesting that entry would be unlikely for a parliament.

Far from being a gaffe this was a deliberate move by Mr Cook and Mr Blair to steal a march on the Tories. If entry cannot go ahead in 1999 it

would be difficult for it to do so in 2000 or 2001, and Mr Cook was stating the obvious. Verdict: clever repositioning.

On terrorism the Tories claim simply that Labour cannot be trusted. Jack Straw is accused of saying Labour would "fully" operate the Prevention of Terrorism Act, yet these were the powers Labour

had voted against year after year.

Mr Straw's position has not changed. He said there were doubts about the use of execution orders and judicial involvement over detention orders, but that Labour would continue to operate the PTA as it had in government before. Verdict: no real U-turn.

## Blair drops three key pledges on workers

TONY BLAIR has backed down from three key policy pledges on workers' rights which he had given trade unions over the past year (Jill Sherman writes).

The unions have contributed roughly £5 million to the party's election fund this year but Mr Blair has made clear that he will not bow to their demands.

He has said that a pledge on union recognition was not a priority and would not be included in Labour's first Queen's Speech. Officials now say that it was more likely to be included in the second year.

Mr Blair also made clear that there would be a

third party, headed by a judge, to adjudicate when employers could not agree with workers on which sections of the workforce to ballot. He went further this weekend and ditched a pledge to give part-time workers the same rights as full-time workers and to allow workers to claim unfair dismissal after six months of employment rather than the present two years.

His U-turn on part-time workers follows a speech to the TUC in September 1995, in which he said: "With Labour, they would be entitled to the same fair treatment as full-time employees."

## What the Shadow Cabinet has said on privatisation

Tony Blair  
"Public utilities like Telecom and gas and essential industries such as British Airways and Rolls-Royce were sold off by the Tories in the closest thing, postwar, to political corruption. What we all owned was taken away from us, flogged off at a cheap price to win votes, and the proceeds used to fund tax cuts. In fact it was a unique form of corruption, since we were bribed with our own money." *News on Sunday, November 1, 1997*  
"We have got to end this insane

notion that everything's got to be shoved into the private sector. There are decent public services and they should be kept as public services." — *A 100 Women, ITV, July 10, 1994*  
"We are committed to restoring a unified system of railways with a publicly owned, publicly accountable BR at its core." — Labour conference, October 1, 1996

Gordon Brown  
"Privatisation has been a costly experience whose benefits have been at best dubious. The losers have been

the tax payers, the winners undisputedly the big institutions in the City and the top management of private companies." — Writing in 1989 on the electricity privatisations

"This last desperate Conservative self-off, this closing-down sale that signifies the moral bankruptcy of this Government." — on rail privatisation, addressing the Scottish Labour conference, March 10, 1996

Robin Cook  
"We have a clear commitment to restore public ownership of the coal

industry." — addressing the Commons, March 23, 1994

Andrew Smith (Transport)

"The Tories have dreamt up a new scheme to privatise the air. They want to flog off the National Air Traffic Control service... let me warn the Transport Secretary: Labour will do everything to block this self-off. Our air is not for sale." — Labour conference, 1996

Labour's line on Channel 4  
"It seems unimaginable that the

Government could even consider privatising the channel and thus jeopardising this resource. Labour will retain Channel Four as a public service broadcaster." — *Leading Britain into the Future*, Labour policy document, 1996

The current Labour position as described by an aide of Mr Brown yesterday:

"We will look at everything on a practical basis, not from an ideological point of view."

## Hard slog for Pontefract 'parachute brigade'

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

IN Pontefract and Castleford the general election ends tonight. One of five hopefuls will win the nomination for the Labour candidature and celebrate the start of a job for life.

This former mining constituency, which Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse won with a majority of 23,495 at the last election, is a glittering prize to attract any aspiring Labour MP. But the intensity of the fight to secure the nomination for the seat and the long shadow that the party leader has cast over the affair has left the local community bemused and angered.

The bemusement started with the last-minute decision by Sir Geoffrey, a former miner and a Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons to stand down. Earlier he had furiously denied talk that he would move aside to let the Tory defector Alan Howard find a safe haven. Then, when

Mr Howard clinched another seat, he did step down.

He referred to his advancing years — he is 71 — and a slight medical complaint, but constituents were amazed. He told them: "I have informed Tony Blair of my decision and have insisted there is still time for my constituency party to be allowed to choose their next candidate from a suitable shortlist with local members being given the opportunity to be considered. This will mean a ballot of local members will choose the next candidate. If I had not been given that assurance, I would have battled on."

The first smolderings of anger came when Labour's national executive announced that the pressure of time meant that it would have to draw up the shortlist from which the constituency would choose a candidate. Rumours abound-

ed that Jack Dromey, husband of Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Services Secretary, and a senior officer with the Transport and General Workers' Union, was to be "parachuted" into the seat by the leadership.

In the end neither he nor Bryan Davies, whose Oldham Central and Royston seat disappeared under boundary changes, made the shortlist. But when local party members saw the list tempers flared. Despite plenty of contenders, not one local constituent had made the last five. Two on the list were from elsewhere in Yorkshire, but that makes them almost as foreign as anyone else in this part of the world. The other three chosen

were from London: two were rising Blairite stars.

Straight away the candidates faced resentment. "Clearly the constituency party would have liked to have had at least one person with local credentials. That has not happened and there are some concerns at that," Andy Wood, chairman of the constituency party, said.

The bad feeling was exacerbated by the fact that a number of those who will be listening hard to the five candidates tonight and then casting votes are local men, including Mr Wood, who had put themselves forward for the shortlist. However, they found themselves rejected by the national executive.

The London candidates have faced the most suspicion and scrutiny. One senior local party official said he was doubtful of the chances of Hilary Benn, the son of Tony Blair and an Ealing councillor, Derek Scott, an economic adviser to Tony Blair, and Yvette Cooper, a newspaper economics correspondent who

has worked for John Smith and Gordon Brown. The official said: "I think it will be very difficult for them, there is no question of that. The local party clearly has great affinity with local candidates. There are proud traditions here." He added: "There is great disappointment that these won't be continued."



Three hopefuls: John Harman, left, a councillor, Yvette Cooper, of the "Millbank tendency", and Hilary Benn, son of Tony

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# Major denies he is dragging debate 'into the gutter'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Prime Minister denied charges yesterday that he was running a personal campaign against Tony Blair after the first "dirty tricks" row of the election surfaced over the weekend.

But Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, led a welter of complaints from Labour figures claiming that the Tories were "descending into the gutter" with their claims to journalists that Mr Blair was cracking under the strain, that he had been "perspiring heavily" before important interviews last week and even that he may have been wearing an earpiece during his manifesto launch so that he could be prompted in his reply to questions.

A Sunday newspaper interview in which John Major accused Mr Blair of "slithering and squirming" from detailed interrogation was also cited.

But it was Michael Howard's criticism, for the second time in the campaign, of Labour's attitude to terrorism — the day after the IRA wrecked the Grand National — that caused the most outrage in Labour ranks.

It prompted Labour to disclose the confidential Home Office memorandum governing the response of ministers and their shadows to terrorist events: pointing out that it should be limited to the voicing of revulsion, sympathy for the victims and the authorities' determination to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Jack Straw, Mr Howard's Labour shadow, had said earlier that a Labour government

would continue to operate the Prevention of Terrorism Act, although the party had doubts about the use of exclusion orders and judicial involvement in detention orders. He said: "We operated it when we were in government and we will operate it again."

That prompted the Home Secretary to say that Labour could not be trusted on terrorism.

## THE TORY CAMPAIGN

ism. Mr Howard said: "One day Marjorie Mowlam (the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary) says Sinn Féin could be invited to talks within weeks of a Labour government. Today Jack Straw contradicts her and in the same breath he says that a Labour government would fully operate the powers of the [Prevention of Terrorism Act]. Yet these are the very powers that Labour have voted against year after year."

Labour said that Mr Howard had broken the bipartisan agreement under the pressure of the election campaign.

Mr Brown said: "I think that all decent people will regret the fact that when we should be standing shoulder-to-shoulder, when there should be an all-party consensus to fight terrorism, Michael Howard has degenerated into making personalised and inaccurate comments about the Labour Party."

Appearing on *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday, Mr Major rejected claims that he had launched a personal attack on

Mr Blair and said that he was focusing on policy areas and the Labour leaders' refusal to answer questions on them or to debate them with him.

The Prime Minister said that he wanted to debate the real issues and to get away from "sloganeering", adding: "One of the things I most loathe about politics these days is that it is politics by soundbite."

Sources close to Mr Blair, however, said that the Tories were trying to "take out Tony" because all the early polling material suggested that he was the key positive issue of the campaign.

They said: "Tony is trusted because he said what he would do to the Labour Party and he has done it. John Major is not trusted because he said he would not raise taxes and he has done so." The sources added: "If they want to fight the election on trust, that is fine by us."

## 'Mr Nice' lights up Norwich campaign

Sleaze holds no fears for former cannabis smuggler, writes Michael Horsnell

OTHER politicians may blanch at the mention of the word, but sleaze is the one factor that the aspiring MP Howard Marks has nothing to worry about during the election campaign.

Mr Marks, once the most wanted cannabis smuggler in the world, is standing as an independent in both the Norwich constituencies — North and South — on an anti-prohibition ticket.

"My skeletons are very much out of the cupboard," he said yesterday. "Sleaze is of no consequence to me. In fact the more allegations they make against me, the better."

Mr Marks, suntanned from the spring sunshine of Majorca, where he lives with his wife, Judy, and three of his four children, wants to legalise cannabis. He says prohibition leaves its supply in the hands of profiteers and criminalises the young. He should know, having run a multimillion-pound empire and been sentenced to 25 years in America for racketeering.

Mr Marks, who was re-



Howard Marks campaigning in Norwich in the shadow of a cannabis leaf emblem

leased two years ago after serving less than seven years of his sentence, confesses to having made "a few million" from importing up to 50 tonnes of cannabis at a time from Pakistan, Thailand and the Far East into Europe and

America. He smokes cannabis daily. "Cannabis makes you feel better," he said.

He flew into Norwich to set up his campaign headquarters in the backstreet emporium, Paradox Delights, run by his agent Derek Williams.

There, everything from hemp oil hair conditioner to bars of high energy New Earth seed bars is sold to people who enjoy "herbal highs".

Mr Marks has fond memories of Norwich. It was here that he bought a false pass-

port in the name of Donald Nice, now deceased, and used it as one of his 43 aliases. He used *Mr Nice* as the title of his autobiography, published last year.

Norwich, more importantly, is the base of the Campaign to Legalise Cannabis International, which is backing him in his fifth anniversary year in his single-issue fight for a Parliamentary seat. Ladbroke's is offering 10,000-1 against his election, odds he regards as generous.

"Essentially, my aim is to prevent criminalising youth and messing up their careers by putting them in prison," he said. "But it is also a question of civil liberty to be able to take cannabis. It is my right to do what I want as long as it doesn't harm anyone else. It is also for people suffering from various medical conditions for which doctors would like to prescribe cannabis but are being denied." He is convinced that cannabis will be legalised one day. "But I'm standing for Parliament because I'm in a bit of a rush."

## Frost withers into a fisher of soundbites

When the late Peter Cook was asked whether he had any regrets, he said yes, he had once saved David Frost from drowning. Well, yesterday it was Frost's turn to throw out a lifeline morning when John Major sat on his sofa and answered a few soft questions.

It is hard to believe that Frosty was once the scourge of wrongdoers in Britain. It was he who attracted opprobrium 30 years ago for conducting "trials by television". Even before the police had caught up with the criminal, there was the young Frost calling the fraudster before a studio audience jury and asking them what were then thought impertinent questions designed to make the crook incriminate himself.

We all grow old and more mellow, and Frost has long since hung up his crusader's cape in favour of cosy chats with the rich and famous. There is something unsettling about the complicity with which, on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, he now co-operates with politicians, providing them with the chance to try out a few soundbites for the day's news bulletins in exchange for a croissant and a glass of orange juice.

Frost, too, benefits from this arrangement as he has a show which few watch but which has a reputation for getting the stories, albeit "stories" cooked up for the occasion. I doubt there is conferring between the two sides because none is necessary: Frost fishes for the soundbite and the politicians hook their cod on the line.

Yesterday, after touching on the Grand National, Frost asked Major whether the election was becoming more personal and abusive.

"Heaven forbid that exchanges should get personal," said the pious PM. So no soundbite there. Then, after Frost rephrased the question, Major came out with this most quotable of quotes: "I do not believe that a Labour government, were there to be such a disaster in this country, could follow Conservative policies. I do not think it is in the instinct of the beast."

Frost cast his line in other directions. He asked if the common view that it was time for a change made any sense, but Major said nothing of interest. Then he asked how Major would answer the Labour charge



TV WATCH  
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

that there had been 22 Tory tax increases, but the reply was too long-winded. Frost even lobbed this softest of soft balls, almost pleading for a quote to last the day: "What would you say is your strongest slogan?" Major missed. "I am not a sloganeering politician."

Then, after a lengthy defence of the Government's policy on the European Union, Major came out with this: "Their manifesto is falling apart before our eyes."

Then: "A manifesto that has taken years to produce has taken days to fall to pieces." *Voilà!* Two bites in the bag and Frost, knowing that anything now would be a bonus, was willing to try some rougher questions.

What mistakes had Major made? How would he mark himself out of ten? Would he be visiting Neil Hamilton's constituency? Did he consider himself the underdog? Had he talked Margaret Thatcher to talk to Rupert Murdoch about which party *The Sun* would support? Major wasn't going to fall for any of them. Why should he? He had said all he needed to, and was playing for time.

At the end of the programme there was a news bulletin. "On this programme the Prime Minister returned to the subject of trust." And there was our old friend, "I do not believe that a Labour government, were there to be such a disaster in this country, could follow Conservative policies. I do not think it is in the instinct of the beast." Three hours later, the BBC news editors had changed their minds and were going on "the manifesto is falling apart before our eyes". The 1pm ITN news followed suit. There, courtesy of *Breakfast with Frost*, was Major saying: "The manifesto is falling apart before our eyes." How very satisfactory for all concerned.

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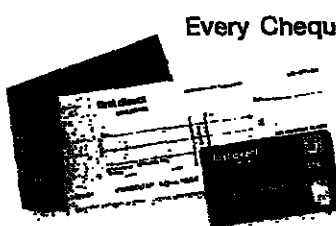
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# Federal US faces war with 'Army of God'

By TOM RHODES

A GROUP claiming responsibility for two explosions in Atlanta has issued a declaration of war against the United States Government in the run-up to the joint anniversary of the Waco siege and the Oklahoma City bombing in two weeks time.

In a letter received by two television stations in Atlanta, an organisation known as the Army of God said it was responsible for the unsolved bombings, injuring a total of 12 people, outside an abortion clinic and a gay club in the city earlier this year.

Although the message denied any involvement in the blast that resulted in the deaths of two people at the Atlanta Olympics last year, the letter mentioned the government siege at the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, in 1993 in which 80 cult members died.

It threatened to mount attacks on "facilities that murder children" and on "sodomites" but, of most concern to the FBI, officials said the letter promised "total war on the so-called federal Government and death to the New World Order".

The FBI and other government agencies said security was being increased through-

out the Southern city for fear that the group might target Freaknik, the annual black student festival which is being held in Atlanta over the weekend which coincides with the Waco and Oklahoma anniversaries on April 19.

Individuals linked to the Army of God, a name related to an underground manual on terrorist acts against abortion clinics, have been associated with a spate of attacks over the last two decades.

But this is the first time a person claiming to represent the group has made reference to the federal Government. Bobby Browning, an official from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, yesterday said agents were being placed on high alert in Atlanta because the letter had indicated its next target might not be empty.

"We're asking employees to be on the lookout," he said. "We're sharing ideas on what to look for, and we have also set up response protocol, should something occur."

The Waco siege provoked a growing movement of disaffection towards the American Government and resulted, exactly two years after the conflagration, in the bombing at Oklahoma City in which 168 people, including 19 children, were killed.

Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bomb, is currently standing trial in Denver on murder and conspiracy charges. Although his case has stagnated in the jury selection phase, which could take weeks to conclude, the trial has only heightened tension among militia groups and other anti-Washington activists in the run-up to the anniversary.

Security is also being tightened at all government facilities throughout the United States in preparation for what has been named Militia Day.



An artist's impression of McVeigh in court

## Chairman of the Fed seals new merger

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS  
IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S "second most powerful" and normally most cautious — man, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, bought into the marriage market yesterday.

Mr Greenspan, 71, wed his long-term friend, Andrea Mitchell, 50, a prominent television reporter. The couple exchanged vows to seal the merger at a ceremony in Virginia attended by about 75 friends.

In some ways it was a surprising match. Mr Greenspan's donnish figure contrasting with blonde Miss Mitchell's hair gel, sparkling earrings and blazing-eyed television ambition.

In keeping with Mr Greenspan's grasp of the deadpan, the union was gazetted with a sober listing in yesterday's *New York Times* wedding page, where columns are normally the domain of Manhattan's socially precise Lady Wishforts and their cushioned progeny.

There, alongside the Epsteins and Bleusteins and Leibowitzes, was the announcement that romance had claimed the man whose merest throat clearance can shake the world's stock markets. "The bridegroom" was described as the son of the late Rose Goldsmith and the late Herbert Greenspan. "He has been the Federal Reserve chairman since 1987," it was noted.

The marriage has been one of the few reasons for smiles on Wall Street in recent days, as the Dow Jones index has lost most of the gains it made earlier this year.

The main culprit for those price falls, if you listen to the "bells", has been the "bearish" Mr Greenspan, who has repeatedly warned investors that the market is more than ripe. Stockholders will be hoping that when he returns to his office this morning — nothing so irrational as a honeymoon is being taken — Mr Greenspan will view life as an altogether sunnier pastime. It is not, however, a mood shift on which to bet the ranch.

## Recycling myth sent to urban junkyard

By TOM RHODES

THE recycling of discarded materials, one of the great urban myths of America's green revolution, has been debunked as an economic disaster. Americans spend hours sorting their rubbish into plastics, aluminium, glass and newspaper for separate collection, and berate those unwilling to do so.

But a decision by Washington DC to suspend its programme has been welcomed by experts who say recycling is little more than a costly political ruse with no financial return. Marion Barry, Mayor of the near-bankrupt federal capital, has said his proposal will save \$2.5 million (£1.5 million a year).

Although yesterday he faced a resolution from his own city council demanding the immediate reinstatement of recycling, Mr Barry found unlikely allies on Wall Street.

"Washington has started the ball rolling," said Michael Hoffman, a garbage analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston in New York. "Ask any American what happens to their garbage or what it costs and they will have no idea. Politicians have been disingenuous about telling the public the truth: the emperor has no clothes." Mr Hoffman said the recycling programme in Washington cost \$200 a tonne while rubbish collection and disposal should amount to little more than \$25.

While commercial programmes remained viable, he said most cities would soon realise that residential recycling merely increased the cost to the taxpayer. "It is of zero social value if you are losing that much money," he said. "It would be much easier to either burn the garbage or landfill it."

Rubbish has a market value. And while two years ago local authorities were receiving \$150 per tonne of recycled newspapers, they must now pay pulp mills \$30 a tonne for collection. Plastic bottles, worth 22 cents a pound last year, are now valued at just five cents.

Leading article, page 21



Vail's pristine slopes have hosted the world skiing championships twice in ten years

## Super-chic ski resort 'sliding downmarket'

FROM TOM RHODES IN VAIL, COLORADO

THE world's largest ski company is involved in a bitter dispute with the founders of Vail, who claim its new owners are turning the American resort — a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales — into a downmarket theme park.

Oldtimers say Vail Resorts, the new management company, is creating the mountain equivalent of Disneyland, threatening livelihoods and sacrificing the traditionally chic atmosphere for cheap mass marketing.

The grande dame of the Rockies, Vail has always attracted far larger numbers than Aspen, its Colorado sister whose combination of culture and cachet has tended to lure a more famous clientele of Hollywood types, sports personalities and tycoons.

Vail, nevertheless, has offered stiff competition as the most popular American resort, a skiing haven for America's upper-middle classes and, because of historical ties to Colorado, a holiday bolthole for senior Mexican government members. Many industry barons, including Ross Perot, the former presidential candidate, own houses in and

around the village that was founded by a small band of enthusiasts in the early 1960s.

Like Aspen, celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this summer, Vail has prided itself on being a distinct community. Its hills have twice hosted the world skiing championships in ten years. Its slopes are said to be America's best-groomed.

Two months ago, Vail Resorts went public, merged with the nearby skiing areas of Breckenridge and Key-

Rockies' grande dame may become great whore of Colorado skiing

stone, and began an aggressive expansion to increase its percentage of the tourist dollar. Many villagers believe that traditional Vail visitors will join a steady stream making the pilgrimage to Aspen. German skiers, who have favoured Vail for its "Bavarian" architecture, are already said to be deserting.

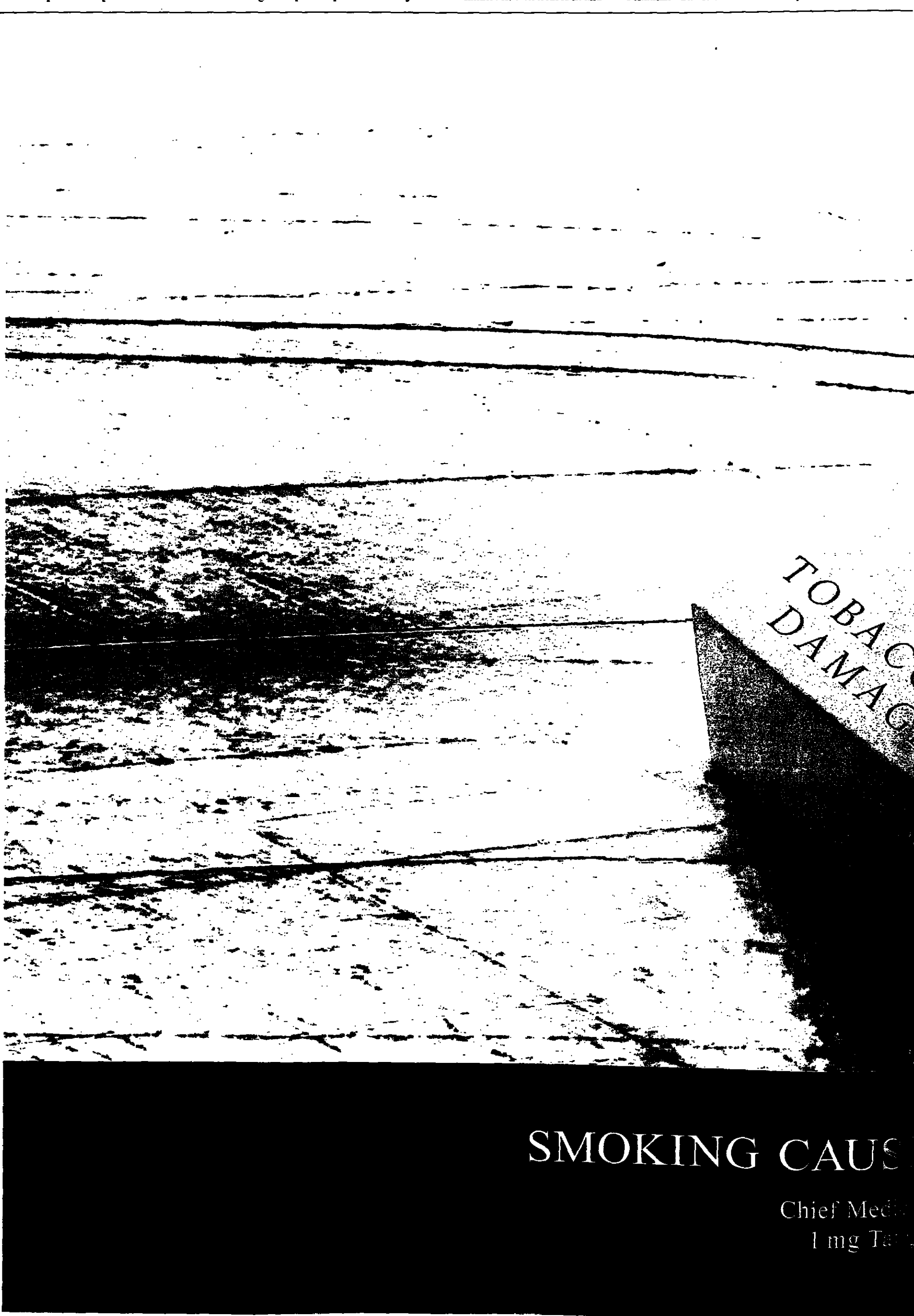
Jonathan Stauter, whose

Austrian father, Josef, and British mother, Anne, are among the founders — and for more than 25 years ran the Vail Village Inn — said: "They are concentrating so much at the lower end of the market, strip-mining this place and driving people away. I do not want to see the grande dame of the Rockies become the great whore of Colorado skiing."

Independent ski rental shops say that Vail Associates, a subsidiary of Vail Resorts, is pricing them out. Other residents say blaring music and Adventure Ridge, an all-night sporting playground, are the beginning of the end.

The company is hoping to build more lifts and homes on 2,000 acres next to the resort and makes no apology for operating on the principle "bigger means better".

Andy Daly, president of Vail Associates, said: "We are in the entertainment business. People come to Colorado for the all-in experience of winter wonderland. Our challenge is to avoid animating it the way Disneyland does and to keep it very natural."



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# UN to rescue 100,000 refugees in Zaire jungle

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

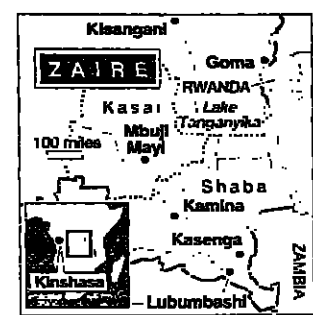
THE United Nations yesterday began planning its biggest and most expensive humanitarian airlift to move more than 100,000 Hutus, including some mass killers, back to Rwanda. The cost of the operation, authorised at the weekend by Laurent Kabila, leader of Zaire's rebels, was estimated to be at least \$50 million (£30.7 million) and may take several months.

The refugees, who fled to Zaire in 1994 in fear of retribution for their part in the genocide of a million Tutsis and moderates of their own tribe, will be flown from rebel-held Kisangani, to Goma, close to the border with Rwanda, and then trucked home.

Their numbers have been depleted, with deaths running at about 120 a day according to UN officials, after a seven-month trek through Zaire's jungle ahead of the Tutsi-dominated rebel advance. After their flight through the forests, and weeks living off grubs, leaves and roots, the refugees were unable to make the journey over roads im-

passable to vehicles. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said in a statement from Geneva: "We are delighted that [the rebel] alliance has agreed to allow this desperately needed airlift to begin. Many thousands of refugees are dying of malnutrition and disease. We are racing against time to save their lives. The repatriation via Kisangani represents the best and quickest way of doing that."

In Pretoria talks between Zaire's Government and the rebels opened at the weekend, but not even Muhammad Sahnoun, the UN special en-



voy, held out any hope that they would lead to a ceasefire. On Saturday Mr Kabila's fighters overran MbujiMayi, the capital of East Kasai province and centre of Zaire's diamond trade, and the chance of their agreeing to a ceasefire seems remote, unless President Mobutu steps down.

At MbujiMayi there was little resistance from local soldiers who stole mining company vehicles to flee. The only fighting, mining sources said, was between government soldiers and civilians trying to prevent the looting of their possessions.

At least \$20 million in diamonds are traded on MbujiMayi's streets each week. Now the rebels have access to funds that could be used to bolster their nascent administration.

Like Kisangani, MbujiMayi fell without much of a fight because the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire has earned a reputation for discipline. In some of the areas under alliance control local adminis-

trators are collecting taxes. The money has been used to pay public servants — an almost unheard of level of honesty in Zaire.

Mr Kabila's forces yesterday were poised to take Lubumbashi, Zaire's second largest city and the centre of the mining industry. Locals have been waiting eagerly and nervously for the arrival of the rebels who, some sources claimed, had already negotiated contracts with international mineral companies.

"If there are any more than a few shots in the air when the rebels attack Lubumbashi, I would be very surprised," said a Western ambassador in Kinshasa, the capital. "Psychologically, the place is already in the hands of the rebels."

Mr Kabila's forces were about 125 miles away from Lubumbashi yesterday. The rebel leader hinted that after taking Tenke — to be the site of the world's largest copper and cobalt mine — that Lubumbashi could fall to his troops early this week.



A Rwandan refugee is carried on a stretcher to a medical facility at a makeshift camp south of Kisangani

## Papers on Rhodesia show rage of Wilson

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, furiously berated his Commonwealth colleagues in talks on the future of Rhodesia in the 1960s and told them to stop treating Britain like "a bloody colony", newly released Commonwealth papers reveal today.

He later withdrew the word "bloody" at the private meeting of Commonwealth leaders in London, but was irritated by their failure to back Britain's proposal to offer Ian Smith a last chance to sort out his illegal regime. Many Commonwealth leaders, particularly those from Africa and Asia, believed force was the only sure way to bring down the Smith regime.

In the first release of papers from the Commonwealth Secretariat under the 30-year rule, it is clear Wilson became tetchy and rattled by the protracted discussions of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers dealing with Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence in November 1965.

He finally snapped at a secret session of Prime Ministers in London in September 1966, when he said the attitudes of some Commonwealth leaders were putting him in a position which no head of government could tolerate.

He railed at the meeting and said his colleagues paid no attention to the problems he and his Cabinet faced over Rhodesia. He complained that each time he modified British policy to suit them, they demanded more concessions. He said they took no account of Britain's relationship with South Africa and the number of British citizens in Rhodesia. In a particularly brazen mood, Wilson reminded his colleagues that, if it had not been for Britain, none of their countries would have been granted independence, and they should remember Britain too was independent.

Wilson erupted again at another private meeting after leaks to the press and he accused Commonwealth leaders of mounting "a campaign of character assassination" against him. He was incensed by press reports that I. M. Kapwepwe, the Zambian Foreign Minister, had called him a "racist" in interviews in London.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Ginsberg dies after a stroke

New York: Eight days after learning that he had inoperable liver cancer, the beatnik writer and iconoclast Allen Ginsberg has died in New York aged 70 (Quentin Letts writes).

Last Thursday Ginsberg suffered a stroke and fell into a coma from which he never awoke, according to friends. His favourite Tibetan monk was on hand to perform a Buddhist ceremony to the dead. **Obituary, page 23**

### US envoy faces visa inquiries

Hong Kong: Police are investigating James DeBates, a US diplomat here, for suspected visa fraud in the second such scandal at the US consulate in the run-up to the handover to China (Catherine Field writes). The case is part of inquiries into the suspected smuggling of illegal immigrants from China to America.

### Rebels massacre 80 in Algeria

Paris: In the worst violence in Algeria for five years, Muslim guerrillas have massacred more than 80 men, women and children (Susan Bell writes). The Algerian press reported that victims had been cut with chainsaws, hacked to death with axes and doused with petrol in the attacks last Thursday and Friday.

### Netanyahu flies to talks in US

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday embarked on a peace mission to the US seen by diplomats as a last chance to prevent violence between Jews and Arabs developing into all-out conflict. Besides President Clinton, he will also meet King Hussein of Jordan. **William Rees-Mogg, page 20**

### Towing feat

Bonn: An engineering student on rollerblades, Dirk Auer, 25, has claimed a world speed record after holding on to the back of a Porsche sports car as it reached 153 mph, a German newspaper reported. (Reuter)

## Missing pilot and jet baffle US Air Force

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

UNITED States Air Force officials are mystified by the mid-flight disappearance of one of their ground-attack jets. An A10 Thunderbolt, carrying four 500lb bombs and flown by an experienced instructor, went missing last week, but its absence was reported only yesterday.

The pilot, Captain Craig Button, 33, based at Laughlin in Del Rio, Texas, was new to the Tucson, Arizona, base from which he took off on what should have been a routine flight to a nearby airfield. Captain Button, whose plane was accompanied by two other air force

jets, suddenly broke out of formation and peeled off north towards the Colorado Rockies.

Search teams scoured parts of Arizona and Colorado for the missing plane, worth \$9 million (£5.5 million). Bad weather impeded their efforts. The jet showed no signs of mechanical failure and no crashes have been reported in the region. The air force said that, had the plane hit the ground, its bombs would not necessarily have exploded.

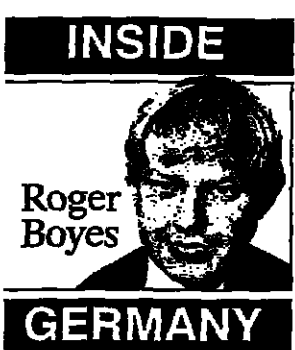
An air force spokesman said one possibility being considered was that Captain Button had stolen the jet.

HEART DISEASE

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## Hit-team trial undermines Bonn's cosy relations with Iranian mullahs

Germany's true political dramas are played out in the courtroom rather than in parliament. Like a bored viewer, channel-hopping between soap operas, one could spend one's working life commuting between trials — of spymasters and traitors, a murderous doctor, Politburo bigwigs, a toupéed property dealer and befuddled skinheads with swastikas tattooed on their knuckles.



Roger Boyes

GERMANY

regime. Germany has been the most zealous proponent of Europe's "critical dialogue" with the mullahs. Yet the trial prosecutor has been

arguing that an attack on Iranian Kurdish dissident leaders — shot in a Berlin restaurant five years ago — was ordered by Tehran. An arrest warrant has been issued by the German authorities for Iran's Police Minister, Ali Fallahian. A guilty verdict in Berlin will effectively brand Iran as a sponsor of international terrorism and make it impossible to continue with the European line that seeks to reform the regime by selling it anything it can afford while tut-tutting whenever a dissident is abducted.

There has been precious little "criticism" in this dia-

logue and, for that matter, very little talk. A balance sheet covering five years of this entirely misconceived policy makes the situation plain. At least 11 Iranian exiles have been murdered and some 300 expatriates have been harassed or blackmailed. Some of these operations have been run from the Iranian Embassy in Bonn.

The price on Salman Rushdie's head has been raised, and in Iran, writers are feeling the pressure, not only from a rigorous censor. In the Middle East, Iran continues to destabilise. Its support for Hezbollah keeps the region on edge. There is,

admittedly, not much to show for the US alternative — an all-out trade boycott of Iran. Germany, whose excellent trading relationship with Tehran is rooted in the 1857 Friendship Treaty between Persia and Prussia, resists sanctions, claiming that it hurts only the Iranian people.

Similar arguments were mustered by Bonn during the Cold War. The essence of early Ostpolitik — now applied to Iran, China and other closed regimes — is that trade encourages modernisers and that they lobby at home for human rights concessions. Gradually the com-

plexion of the regime begins to change. The German approach, adopted blindly by the European Union, ignores the rumblings of discontent, the revolutionary potential of ordinary people, and focuses on battles (some of them little more than quixotic imaginings) within the establishment. That leads to poor analysis and an almost cartoon version of events which constantly pits "liberals" against "hardliners" in a never ending Tom and Jerry knockabout. Iran has never fallen comfortably into these categories, it seems — after parliamentary elections and ahead of this year's presiden-

tial contest — that the Islamic conservatives are calling the tune. But the only meaningful key to understanding the Iranian political class is to look for, and build on, the pragmatic instincts of those who want to hang on to power. That means applying real pressure on every issue that matters.

The Iranian regime is capable of constructive action. It mediated in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia on Nagorno-Karabakh; it has made some efforts to stabilise the Trans-Caucasian republics, and in Central Asia — Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan — it has

been playing a more useful role than Saudi Arabia or Pakistan. It does so because it can identify its goals in these regions.

Europe should spell out with equal clarity the limits of Iranian activities on the continent. Killing or threatening to kill people in EU states should lead to swift expulsion of diplomats and the scaling down of trade missions. Steps progressively isolating Iran would probably have more impact than sanctions. Germany should take the first step, as soon as the Berlin court returns its verdict.

## Russian reformer heeds 'babushka' Thatcher's advice

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

BARONESS THATCHER is poised to play a central role in the dramatic reforms planned for Russia in the final years of the Yeltsin presidency, according to the most powerful new figure in Kremlin politics.

In a wide-ranging interview, Boris Nemtsov, the first Deputy Prime Minister appointed three weeks ago to shake up the Government, set out his ambitious strategy to tackle the most pressing matters facing Russia.

Young, good-looking and witty, the former liberal governor of Nizhny Novgorod compared his job to that of a kamikaze pilot. If he fails, his political career may plunge to destruction. If successful, he could become an unbeatable challenger for the presidency in 2000.

As he embarks on his mission to root out corruption, break up monopolies and sort out the country's chaotic pensions system, Mr Nemtsov revealed that he had discussed his plans in detail with Baroness Thatcher, a long-time friend and political ally, to whom at one point he referred as *babushka* (granny).

"I was at her home in December in Chester Square. We discussed three topics: the damage caused by monopolies, how to fight corruption, and the state pension system," he told *The Times* at his new office in the White House in Moscow.

He said: "She may not know the details, but she is great in assessing the overall situation." In his autobiography, *The Provincial*, which is launched in Russia this week, Mr Nemtsov makes it clear that more than just friendship unites them. "In general, I believe that Russia needs someone like Thatcher. She

knows what needs to be done and how to do it," he writes.

The 37-year-old former physicist can certainly use all the help he can get. After President Yeltsin and his influential daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, persuaded him to accept the ministerial job, he infuriated Moscow's political elite by forcing them to use Russian-made cars instead of imported ones.

Last week he was instrumental in helping to water down the reunification treaty with Belarus, which had been criticised by fellow liberals as a pact with a dictatorship.

This week he plans to start tackling massive official corruption. He is pushing through a presidential decree forcing every ministry to put out to public tender all government contracts, which are currently conducted in secret, often with huge bribes for bureaucrats.

"It had to be the first step in the struggle against corruption," said Mr Nemtsov. "Food and uniforms for the army, healthcare equipment,



Nemtsov: determined to purge corruption

grain and everything dealing with state supplies will be procured on the basis of open tenders."

His next big challenge will be to break up Russia's powerful monopolies, in particular the energy sector, the railways, roads and the huge gas conglomerate. This final move is likely to set him on a collision course with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, whose failure to tackle Russia's economic problems, such as unpaid wages and pensions, resulted in Mr Nemtsov's appointment.

Certainly, the brash young former governor is not afraid of a fight. In his book, he does not mince his words about the Prime Minister he now serves.

"He is a good man... but maybe he is not quite ready for prime ministerial work in conditions of crisis," he writes. "He is experienced... but he wants to remain an economic planner, and has for a long time resisted the daily pressures forcing him into politics. He is in a dubious position."

Only the coming months will tell whether Mr Nemtsov can survive his battle with the Moscow establishment, a fight which led to the sacking last year of Aleksandr Lebed, the former National Security Adviser, who trod on too many toes during his short tenure.

Nevertheless, Mr Nemtsov remained outwardly philosophical. He insisted that in accepting the job — against the wishes of his wife and daughter — he was not furthering any personal ambitions to become President. Few pundits in Moscow believe his denials. His ranking in a monthly poll of the country's most influential political figures jumped last week from twenty-fourth to fourth.



American astronaut Janice Voss, above, takes a firm grip with her feet as she makes checks on board the Columbia space shuttle's spacelab at the weekend. She and five colleagues, including Roger Crouch, seen in the background, are to abort their mission because of problems

### Shuttle mission aborted

with an electric generator (Quentin Letts writes). NASA's Mission Control yesterday ordered Columbia to return to Earth two weeks earlier than scheduled. The mission was to have lasted until April

20. The shuttle, which blasted off on Friday with a long list of scientific experiments to attempt, is expected to touch down at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, tomorrow. Millions of dollars have been

lost. Meanwhile, two Russians and an American on board the Russian space station Mir were stripped down to their waists yesterday as temperatures soared because of a problem with an air purification system. An unmanned rocket is on its way with spare parts.

## Whistle blown on French secret police

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

A DISILLUSIONED former French spy who has written a book revealing the machinations of the French secret police is being sued by the Government for defamation.

Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, has brought the suit against Patrick Roguet, whose book, *The Scandal Machine*, was published on Friday. In it, M Roguet calls for the disbanding of the Renseignements Généraux (RG), on the grounds that it is a threat to democracy. Describing the organisation as "above the

law", M Roguet says the organisation's agents are the most powerful people in France. The force is "a state within a state uncontrolled by the judiciary or by parliament", he says, adding that French politicians are often indebted to the force because of its role in suppressing corruption scandals.

His claims come at an embarrassing time for the ruling RPR party. Mysterious letters from a remarkably well-informed person to the judge investigating alleged illegal funding of the President and Prime Minister's party have included internal memos from the force, containing

tantalisating references to RPR financing and Swiss banks. However, despite repeated requests from the judge, the RG director, Yves Bertrand, and a senior officer, Brigitte Henri, have denied having any useful knowledge, leading to speculation that they may soon be placed under formal investigation for withholding information.

M Roguet compares the RG's methods to those of the KGB or the Stasi. The force was set up under the collaborationist Vichy government in 1941 to carry out "political surveillance" of Jews, communists and resistance members.

There is also a growing awareness that, while a Blair administration may be better disposed towards Europe, it would pitch its camp on almost the same lines as the Conservatives. Fresh negotiation may be needed in Luxembourg, the next EU presidency, in the autumn.

Souring the atmosphere as ministers gathered on the North Sea coast last night was a squabble over relations with China. France, Germany, Italy and Spain refused to agree on an EU declaration, supported by Britain and the other nine states, condemning China's human rights policies.

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Iñaki Urdangarin, top, at the Atlanta Olympics

### Sports star 'seeks hand of princess'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SOCCER-obsessed Spaniards have developed a sudden interest in handball, provoked by rumours that the Infanta Cristina de Borbón y Grecia, the second daughter of King Juan Carlos, will shortly announce her engagement to a Barcelona player.

The 31-year-old Infanta, third in line to the Spanish throne and a keen sports fan, is being linked to Iñaki Urdangarin Liekeert, 29, who was a member of Spain's handball team at last year's Olympic Games in Atlanta. The Infanta Cristina was at the Games where she spent a good deal of time at the handball courts, exhorting the Spanish players to an unprec-

edented bronze medal. News of her impending engagement to Señor Urdangarin was broken last Tuesday by a television station.

Last week a journalist misled Doña Pilar de Borbón, the King's older sister, into believing that an announcement of the engagement had been made. A delighted Doña Pilar revealed that she "knew all about" Señor Urdangarin. "He is extremely handsome," she added.

King Juan Carlos, visiting Mexico, said guardedly: "Yes, they are friends, and they go out as friends, but nothing more." However, he added: "No one can know what will happen in the future."

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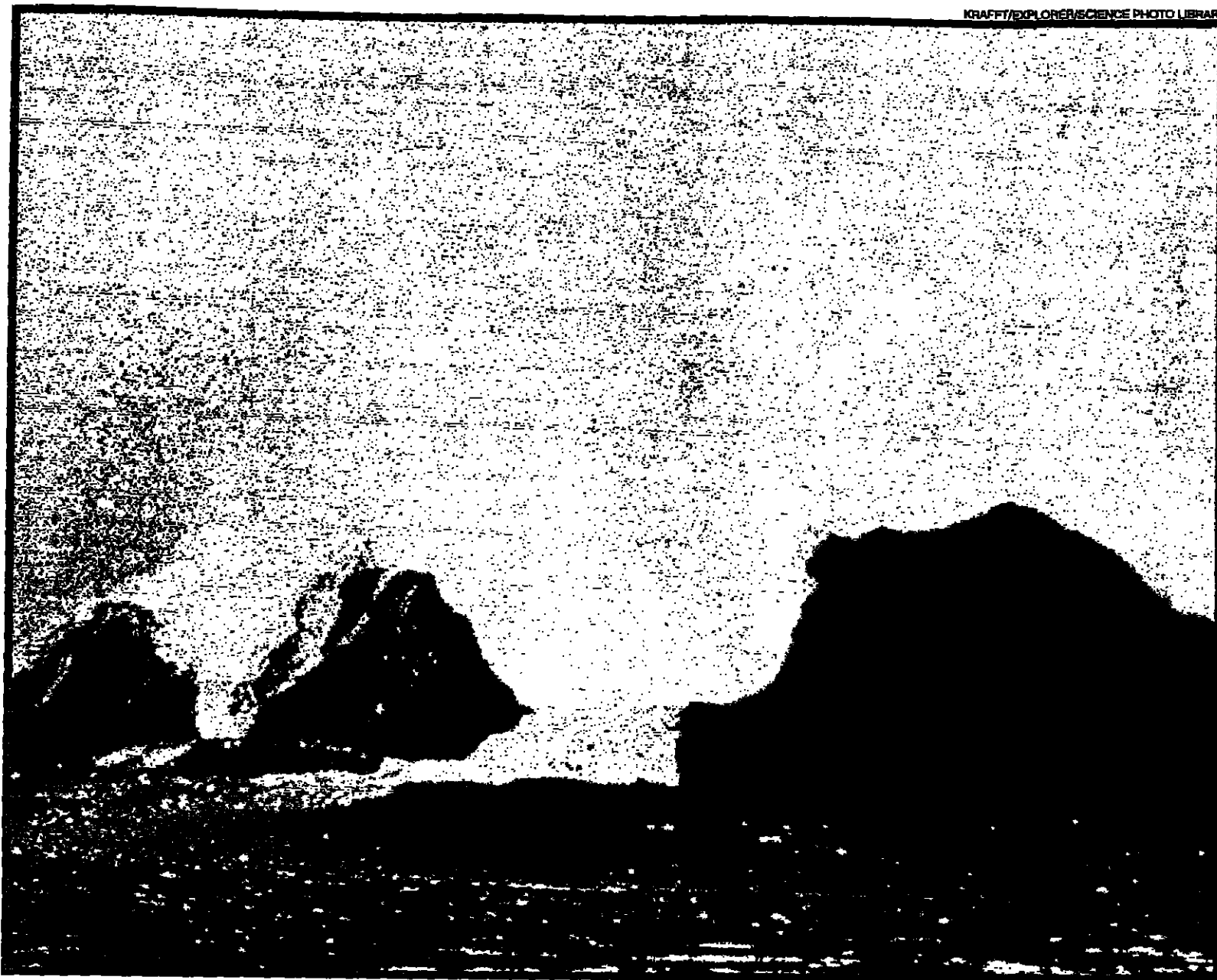


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Some of the most volcanically active regions lie under key airline routes, where billowing clouds of volcanic ash pose a threat to air traffic

## Sitting on a time bomb

A handsome volcano expert predicts an eruption and warns a nearby town to evacuate: the warning is ignored, with deadly consequences. The plot of *Dante's Peak*, in which Pierce Brosnan stars as the heroic volcanologist, could easily be dismissed as trite.

Yet the truth about volcanoes. Nature's most vicious and dramatic time bombs, makes for disturbing reading. Volcanologists predict, using historical records, that a major eruption is imminent. As yet, there is no foolproof method of knowing which of the planet's 600-odd active volcanoes will blow its top. It seems Hollywood's reading of the situation isn't too wide of the mark.

And there's worse. Some of the most volcanically active regions, such as the Aleutian Islands off Alaska, lie under key airline routes. The United States Geological Survey estimates that for four days a year, billowing clouds of volcanic ash pose a significant hazard to air traffic.

Satellites look likely to provide the answer. Two European remote sensing satellites, ERS-1 and ERS-2, have been monitoring ground movements at Mount Etna. Next year will see the launch of AMI-1, an American satellite that will map lava flows, measure the drift of volcanic clouds, and monitor emissions of sulphur dioxide. Another satellite, LightSAR, which would provide the most detailed and consistent information on volcanic activity so far, is in the planning stage.

"The height of the ground can shift vertically by about six inches prior to an eruption," says Dr Jeffrey Plaut, a geologist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and researcher on LightSAR.

"It is caused by the magma swelling around the summit. The groundshifts tend to go hand in hand with changes in lava flows and emissions," the LightSAR instruments-

Vulcanologists predict a major eruption — but they cannot say where. Anjana Ahuja reports

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nion would be capable of measuring shifts in centimetres. However, scientists admit that the time lag between seeing a shift and an eruption could be anything from hours to months.

Until now, researchers have had to gather information from instruments on the ground and aircraft flyovers. They have enjoyed some success — the eruption in 1991 of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines was forecast, and 85,000 people were evacuated. An eruption in Papua New Guinea was also predicted 24 hours beforehand. However, ground instruments and flyovers present serious drawbacks.

First, it is often risky for people and planes to get too close to an volcano — several volcanologists have died over the past few years during ground experiments. Instruments can succumb to the harsh environment, and they can also perish if the volcano shifts. Dr Plaut says: "There tend to be precursors to eruptions, and one of these pulses in activity can be enough to wipe out instruments."

That makes data-gathering patchy, which renders the reliable identification of trends almost impossible. Another hindrance is that not all areas are accessible, either because the terrain is remote or because of political barriers.

These remote regions can be monitored from space. It would also assist countries who cannot afford to maintain a network of ground instruments. The other bonus is that radar can be used night and day, and in cloudy weather, giving more consistent coverage. The pulses are bounced off the Earth, and any change in the returning "echoes" indicates a shift.

As for the threat to aircraft,

an American volcanologist has come up with an intriguing idea. Dr Dave Pieri, also from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, has proposed installing a constellation of three or four satellites with the sole intention of monitoring the turbulent "ring of fire" surrounding the Pacific. Thought to be one of the most active regions, it also happens to sit beneath a popular flight path.

In these cash-strapped times, Dr Pieri has floated the idea of funding the constellation by levying a seven-dollar fee on every airline passenger flying those routes. In other words, the scheme would introduce a "volcano tax". The plan is being discussed by the aviation authorities.

"The route from Anchorage to Tokyo passes over about 300 active volcanoes," Dr Pieri says. "With the South-East Asian economy growing so quickly, traffic can only expand. The great threat is that volcanic plumes can reach aircraft altitudes. The ash gets sucked in the engine and melts, and this can stop the engine cooling. As a result, the engines can overheat. It really is a pressing issue. To my mind, it is the most direct worldwide threat from volcanoes."

Dr Pieri is not the only expert anxious to hurry research along. Bill McGuire, a volcanologist from University College London, has repeatedly warned that too little is being done to prepare for the worst. Volcanologists around the world think that the issue is taking on a fresh urgency, especially as the settlements near dormant volcanoes expand.

But despite the fears, volcanologists have to cope with funding problems and political hurdles. Plans for a dedicated volcano satellite, the

The height of the ground can shift by about six inches

Volcano Infrared Eruption Watcher (View), were shelved last year. It might yet be revived.

Dr Pieri also acknowledges the "dicey balancing act" needed to protect people, but at the same time guard against false alarms. After all, evacuating populations is an expensive task and nobody would want to get it wrong.

Dr Pieri says: "This goes all the way back to Pompeii. There is evidence that a lot of people knew something big was on the way, but because the town was a rich agricultural region, and a resort for the Roman literati, nothing was done. And look what happened."

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## The gene genie

THE understanding of human genes is growing fast, but the clinical applications of the new knowledge are proving much more elusive. What does it profit us to know the genetic fault responsible for cystic fibrosis if we cannot use a corrected gene to put it right?

It is turning out to be very difficult to insinuate single genes into cells, make them work, and thereby cure disease. An alternative approach is certainly welcome, and may have opened up with the creation by American scientists of the first artificial human chromosomes.

Human beings have about 100,000 genes, found in the nucleus of cells wrapped in packages called chromosomes. Since there are only 23 pairs of chromosomes, each one contains many genes. The chromosomes act as stable platforms to enable the genes to do their job of creating proteins in a predictable way. So far, individual genes carried into the cell on the back of a virus, for example, have lacked this stability of expression.

Dr Huntington Willard and colleagues from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, have followed a different approach. Rather than trying to get individual genes into an existing chromosome, they propose creating a chromosome to contain it. And their experiments, reported in *Nature Genetics*, are encouraging evidence that they may be able to do it.

Chromosomes are not simply long stretches of DNA. They have terminal regions called telomeres, often compared to



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

the tips of shoelaces, and with a similar purpose — to stop the DNA fraying. They also have regions in the centre, called centromeres. Between these two fixed points are the genes.

The artificial chromosome created by the Cleveland team is simple, containing only one gene, plus synthetic telomeres and centromeres. They were all inserted separately into human cells in culture. Then, just as the researchers hoped, the cells' own machinery assembled them in the right order, and covered them in chromatin, the protein that surrounds chromosomes. The cells then treated the new chromosome as if it were one of their own.

When the cells divided, the artificial chromosome did, too, copying itself for 240 successive divisions over the six-month period for which the culture was followed. Since this was a test-tube culture, it is impossible to know whether it would have functioned in the body. "We have every reason to expect that human genes would be expressed just fine," says Dr Willard.

A biotech company, Athersys, also based in Cleveland, hopes to exploit the development by treating blood disorders such as sickle cell anaemia, haemophilia, and immune deficiencies. Blood would be removed from a patient, treated so that its cells contained synthetic chromosomes able to make the missing proteins, and returned. If it worked, the disease would be cured. Medicine is seldom that simple, but it is nice to dream.

## Human origins lie in African variations



THE argument over whether human beings emerged in Africa or, as some argue, everywhere, has generated a lot of heat. Now a new study supports the out-of-Africa hypothesis by showing that today's African populations have a greater genetic diversity than Europeans or Asians.

Genetic changes accumulate slowly, so the longer a population stays in one place, the greater the number of variations in its genes. If a group emigrates, it takes a subset of the genes containing less than the full extent of variation. This difference can be detected even hundreds of generations later.

The out-of-Africa proponents would therefore expect African populations to be more varied, as shown by Dr Lynn Jorde, of the University of Utah, and colleagues in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. They looked at 60 different genetic regions in the genes of Africans, Asians and Europeans. Diversity was 20 per cent higher among Africans, consistent with an African origin of modern humans, says Dr Jorde.

## Introducing 007's latest weapon



GERMAN engineering is rightly celebrated, but some might hesitate to submit themselves to its latest product — a mechanical massage machine produced by the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation in Stuttgart. The machine is designed to deliver a soothing massage to the back and legs without human intervention.

The moving robot arms travel up and down the body, gently lowering the massage "head" to pummel the flesh. Various heads are available, including coarsened rubber, bristles, or what the institute calls "nubs". The pressure and type of massage can be programmed from the prone position, but built-in safety systems ensure that the robot cannot become too rough.

A prototype has been built, and its designers expect manufacturers will be keen to make it more commercial. Fitness centres, sunbathe studios and hotels are all expected to be keen, but the machine really seems purpose-designed for a James Bond film.

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# 'I was there when my wife died and the frame fitted very neatly'



New love, new life: Jeremy Lowndes, his wife Barbara and the family pet at their cottage in the Wiltshire village of Fonthill Bishop. "We are an ideal couple and the relationship is idyllic, some amazing dream come true," she says.

## The couple at the heart of a Costa murder mystery talk of their love for the first time to Bill Frost

Jeremy Lowndes has not touched spirits since the night his wife was battered to death at the couple's villa on the Costa del Sol and he leapt from a balcony, breaking both ankles.

Absinthe was thrust upon the Old Etonian property millionaire after his arrest and conviction for murder. "If I had not spent the past four years in a Spanish jail as a guest of King Juan Carlos I would unquestionably be dead of drink now," he says while nursing a modest glass of red wine.

Undoubtedly, the hardship of prison life has mellowed him, and marriage to the woman he courted by letter from his prison cell has tamed a temper once described as "perhaps the worst in London".

His new wife, Barbara, is fiercely protective of 68-year-old Mr Lowndes; her belief in his innocence is instinctive and unshakable. The couple,

who were married in February, are plainly devoted to each other.

Their home, a small cottage in the Wiltshire village of Fonthill Bishop, is a world away from the Costa del Sol enclave for the seriously rich where Jeremy Lowndes was arrested after his first wife was found dying in a puddle of blood. There are no millionaire neighbours here, no Babylonian lunch parties fuelled with drink.

The second Mrs Lowndes will not allow her husband to dwell on the night that his first wife was bludgeoned to death with a blunt instrument (which was never recovered). "He is the innocent party, the priority now is to build our life together — he needs peace and quiet, we both do," she says.

Today, Mr Lowndes still finds it painful to talk about the death of Carmel Lowndes, a society beauty in the 1950s who was formerly married to the Earl of Kimberley, a prominent Tory peer. "I loved

my first wife very much. She was a wonderful person and our years together were very happy," he says.

Recalling how the three met on the Costa del Sol, where Barbara had sought sanctuary after the death of her husband, he says: "We became very, very close. Carmel and I were the firmest of friends with Barbara."

Jeremy and Carmel, the daughter of Australian boxing champion Michael Maguire, had married in 1954 — two years after her divorce from the earl. The relationship was passionate and, according to some who knew the couple, occasionally stormy. But this is a suggestion that angers him. Suddenly there is a flash of the old temper. "People new of course, but any hint that our marriage was tempestuous is



Carmel and Jeremy Lowndes on their wedding day in 1954

completely untrue. We were wonderful together."

On the night of the murder in July 1992, the couple had hosted dinner party at their villa for Carmel's son by the earl, Lord Wodehouse, his wife Carol and her brother-in-

law, Robert St John. The table was filled with bottles of vintage champagne, fine red wine and the best brandy.

Mr and Mrs Lowndes saw their guests to bed before enjoying a nightcap. Both of them had been drinking heavily throughout the day.

Lord and Lady Wodehouse were woken some time in the small hours by Mr Lowndes. He told them his wife was dead. While Mr Lowndes poured himself another drink to "steady his nerves", Lady Wodehouse went upstairs to find 68-year-old Mrs Lowndes unconscious on the landing outside her bedroom. It was plain she was about to die.

At his trial in Cadiz, Jeremy Lowndes told the panel of three judges that he had been roused from a stupor by his wife's screams. He denied claims by his stepson and Lady Wodehouse that he said to them: "I think I have just killed your mother."

Soon after waking his guests, Mr Lowndes jumped from a balcony, seriously injuring his back and ankle.

The court was told he had said: "I don't know why I did it. Life is not worth living any more."

Mr Lowndes could barely remember the night of his wife's murder and must have jumped while under the influence of alcohol and prescription drugs, the court heard. His defence counsel implied that Lord Wodehouse could have been responsible for the killing. The 45-year-old peer has since inherited his mother's estate.

Even though no murder weapon was produced, and Iain West, one of Britain's leading pathologists, cast doubt on the prosecution's evidence when he appeared as

a witness for the defence, Mr Lowndes was found guilty of his wife's murder and sentenced to nine years imprisonment. The verdict was passed to him while he was still recovering from his injuries in the hospital wing of a maximum security prison.

"I was there when my wife died and the frame fitted very neatly around my head," he says. "I was tried by a panel of judges who presumed I was responsible from the start — I was guilty before I limped into court."

His wife tries to stop him talking of his ordeal, knowing the pain that his memories bring. "Please, please... the whole thing was too terrible," she says. But Mr Lowndes is not to be deterred. "Lots of my time behind bars was totally horrific — complete hell. There were moments of despair, a few times when I cried, which for me is completely out of character — I am not one to buckle under pressure."

His health deteriorated dramatically while he was in jail. His wife pales and grips the edge of the table as he tells how, for 17 months of his sentence, he was treated for "a painful prostate problem".

Once again, she implores him not to dwell on his time behind bars. Once again, he ploughs on: "I had a catheter and a bag — one night I woke to find it full of blood but the warders couldn't have cared less."

Mr Lowndes says he was sustained during his "wrongful incarceration" by letters from the woman who was to become his wife. "Love grew from that correspondence. Before I was jailed, we were just friends," he says.

The new Mrs Lowndes realised, too, that the relationship was changing while her friend was behind bars. "I wrote because I was concerned for Jeremy — I knew he was innocent and was outraged that the court convicted him anyway. Then something else began to grow and there came a point when we both knew we were in love. "We are an ideal couple and the relationship is idyllic, some amazing dream come true. I admire Jeremy so much: he is a man with true grit."

Jeremy Lowndes was freed last August after serving four years of his sentence. All his

time was spent in maximum security prisons, despite his age and infirmity. "I was freed for being what they called a model prisoner. There is an other interpretation — I think my lawyer used friends of friends who were well connected in the prison service. That's the kind of country Spain is."

"I still believed in logic until the night my wife died. I really thought justice would prevail and they would find me not guilty, leaving the crime unsolved — murder by person or persons unknown."

Once again he speaks of the close relationship he had with his first wife and the bond that was to grow between them and the woman he would later marry. "Carmel, Barbara and I were the firmest of friends. We all got on from the start and any suggestion to the contrary is quite wrong."

Barbara Lowndes is proud of her new husband. She introduces him to her circle of friends in Wiltshire while protecting him against those who

might jeopardise their still fragile security — reporters who arrive at the village in search of the "Costa Killer".

"I love him and he has been through enough already, and both of us are heartbroken at the way this has been handled by some sections of the press," she says. "The past is not important, our future is."

Mr Lowndes is more sanguine. He laughs at his tormentors and promises a book telling his side of the story.

I had little else to think about while I was in prison, so the writing should not be too difficult. I'll need a brace of libel lawyers at each elbow, though."

So does he claim to know the identity of his first wife's killer? He nods and begins to reply. But once again Barbara interjects. "No, no, not that's enough... please just leave the subject alone. Surely that's enough, it is finished, it is over."

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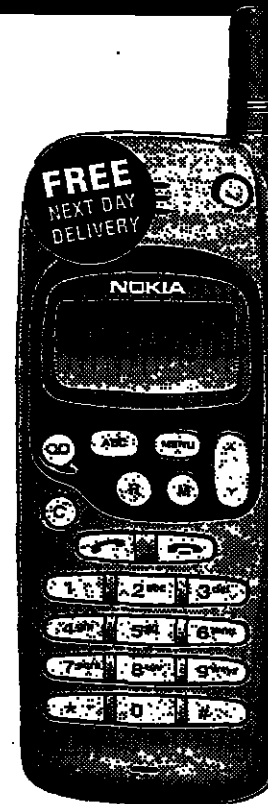
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# 'She is the smiliest, most playful of babies. It's true a dad can be more affectionate to a daughter'

A year ago, six months after his father's death, Martin Amis told me he missed his dad most when he wanted to discuss some point of language with him. This may have seemed to some a peculiarly cerebral form of bereavement. But the short-hand dialogue between two like minds is the greatest loss. "I'm always dying to tell him things," Martin says.

Of course. Mangled, mis-used words were the lingua franca of Amis père et fils. How they chorled in derision at the berks and oiks who could not spell, pronounce or use correctly the word "je-june". (Nothing to do with jeune, and means thin, not puerile.) "Martin and I," Kingsley once told me, "have our ears permanently pricked for the way people say things."

Kingsley, who would have been 75 next week, is now back in the bestsellers with *The King's English*, his commonplace book about the state of the language.

I met Martin in The Engineer pub in Primrose Hill. At 47, he finds himself the father of a substantial family (four) and has moved with the writer Isabel Fonseca and their new baby Fernanda into a handsome stucco house in the road where his father lived.

It was perfectly possible — as it was with Kingsley — to spend the entire lunch arguing and laughing about words: the mysterious derivation of synch (one who shows signs of penis/pencil); of meddlesome ("beset by small fears"); "I'm slightly to the left of him, on language as on everything else," Martin said. "I don't say 'medi-eva', do you?" (I do, actually.)

He was astonished to find this book complete after his father's death. "I used to take the two boys to lunch there every Sunday, and would go to have a cigarette in his study. I remember seeing the 'Déjà vu' section on his desk and thought it was perfectly perceived and executed. But I rather doubted that there was a book's worth of stuff."

"After his stroke, he would struggle for words, even to complete a cliché. He would still tap away, but Mum said he was battling with the same sentence, day after day. Poor, poor thing."

"So I was amazed, when I got the typescript, at how solid and finished it was, and to find him at his most incisive, fair-

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



A year in which Martin Amis's father died, also saw the birth of a daughter. It left him both "strengthened and emboldened"

Updike and V.S. Naipaul.

Still, in the impromptu brilliance of his conversation, and the muscular diligence of his writing, he outclasses his father. He would never use a word against his derivation: "You can't say 'a dilapidated hedge' when 'lapis' is stone." His dictionary is well-thumbed, and as Kingsley writes: "The habit of consulting a dictionary is largely dying out." In fact the book's refrain is *Going, Going, as in*

Larkin's morose poem. The apostrophe is going, the possessive gerund is going, the subjunctive is almost gone. Change and decay in all around he sees. Yet it is also full of jokes, just as Martin's 1970s *New Statesman* column, *This English*, was.

Martin supplied his father with several items. It was he who told him about his dentist saying "Open widely". And Martin who heard Jessica Lange at the Golden Globes in Hollywood saying "Lastly but not leastly, I'd like to thank..."

Kingsley Amis is scathing of snob usages: "Connection" is not classier than "connection". But he still sets some arbitrarily snobby U/Non-U traps: crossed sevens are "an affectionation"; he judges it absurd to pronounce Latin as Latin, not English; he disallows the useful "forever" as "I'm forever blowing bubbles". He insists that alas is pronounced "alabs". "Puff" as he would say. Most infuriating is "Womanese". The Amises share a conviction that all women are Mrs Malaprops. Most of Kingsley's examples are from Martin's novel *The Information* — "the only page he read: I marked it for him."

Martin says all the women in his life mangle phrases, and his mother, Hilary, is "world heavyweight champion". (She once said, "Get your A levels, and the world's your lobster".)

It is a relief to see Martin Amis smile. For him, the year 1995-6 moved off the Richter-scale of stress indicators: his marriage broke up; Isabel Fonseca was pregnant; he moved house; he had his teeth expensively fixed. He ditched his agent and his publisher; he was accused of greed and in a painfully public rift, lost his old friend Julian Barnes. His long-disappeared cousin Lucy Partington turned out to be one of Fred West's victims. *The Information* was about the mid-life crisis and it became a mid-life crisis: he said all he needed now was the death of a parent...

However, he says, a crisis strengthens and emboldens you. And it passes. One bonus was the emergence of Delilah Seale, his daughter from a 1975 affair, now an Oxford undergraduate of 21. Two new books are finished. And in November, Fernanda arrived, "the smiliest, most playful" of babies, he dotingly says. He can see what he missed by not knowing Delilah's babyhood. "Girl and boy babies are like kittens and puppies," he says

genes and talents, and people thought I'd bucked the work ethic, by my struggle not being a struggle. "Is he released from all that now?"

"Well, no, because I'm still overstaying the welcome." He remains fixed in favour of fiction above biography as revealing of the writer's soul; it is "the only way to redeem the formlessness of life, otherwise the stuff itself would strike me as unendurably thin". Come on, he can hardly call his recent life thin. "But the entanglements of life are shapeless, just brute, happenstance, heavy-handed reality."

He says a writer is, by definition, one who is most alive when alone. "But there's a big bill to pay. It makes you very detached. I notice, even with the baby, if I'm very preoccupied with writing, and come down and pick her up and kiss her, it's as if she's a stranger, because I'm so elsewhere. But that's the only complaint I have against the job." As he told Melvyn Bragg in his *South Bank* interview, there is no point in writing at all unless you think you're the best; every writer thirsts for Johnsonian longevity of esteem, and posthumous survival — but will never know if he gets it.

Kingsley would have winced to hear Sue Lawley introducing Martin on *Desert Island Discs* recently with a howling dangle: "Cool, witty and 47, writing is of overwhelming importance to him." He would also have heard Martin concede to Sue that the death of the intercessionary parent promotes one into the temporal front line — and that this is both energising and liberating. "Surely I must now go from boy to man," he said. "I can't, surely to God, still be this Bad Boy, as I approach my fifties."

The King is dead; long live the King; and from what he tells me, the princes Louis and Jacob are a brace of sharp kids.



Martin Amis and his new baby daughter Fernanda: "Girl and boy babies are like kittens and puppies," he says

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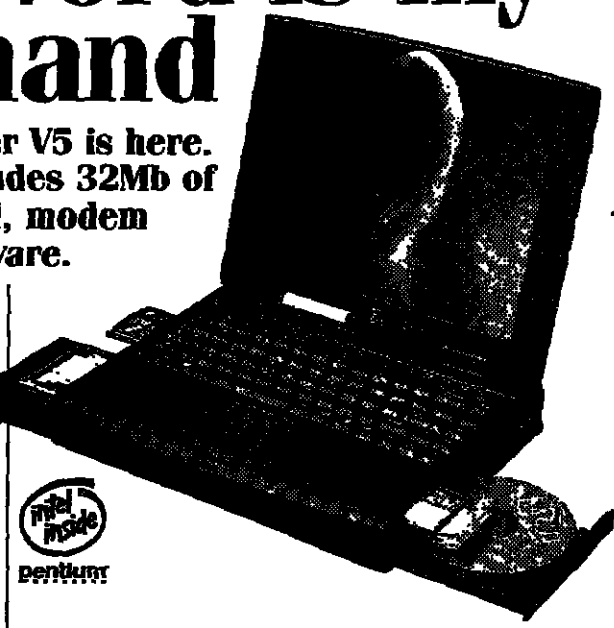
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## MUSIC

**Nige is back:** Master Kennedy brings his fiddle and virtuosity to the Festival Hall  
**RECITAL:** Thursday  
**REVIEW:** Saturday



## FILM

**Portrait of a porn-merchant:** Woody Harrison stars in *The People vs Larry Flynt*  
**OPENS:** Friday  
**REVIEW:** Thursday



## RECORDS

**Depeche Mode put** their troubles behind them with the release of an emphatic new album  
**IN THE SHOPS:** This week  
**REVIEW:** Friday



## BOOKS

**How Proust Can Change Your Life:** Alain de Botton reveals all in a new study  
**IN THE SHOPS:** Now  
**REVIEW:** Thursday

**ARTS**  
**TUESDAY TO**  
**FRIDAY**  
**IN SECTION 2**

**POP: A professional but processed show from Eternal. Plus, disappointment from a star line-up at Shepherds Bush**



Britain's other platinum-selling girl band, Eternal, gave the popcorn-munching faithful what they came for

## The sound of a well-oiled machine

**W**hen popcorn sales appear to be upstaging the beer concession at this charm-free venue, you can be sure that family entertainment is the order of the evening. The Australian newcomers Human Nature, opening the show here but already gold-selling pin-ups back home, warmed young hands and hearts with a polished routine that featured their forthcoming UK debut single *Wishes*. The countless other groups stacked like sardines in the boy band market will just have to make room.

Headliners Eternal have enjoyed three and a half years of unbroken and, until recently, unrivalled success, their stride not even checked by Louise's departure for a star on her own door. Since last summer, of course, the melting pot of

**Eternal**  
**Wembley Arena**

*Power of a Woman*, wearing bizarre, over-sized leather and PVC creations. Over the next 90 minutes, all three young women worked astonishingly hard with an exacting set that was almost a variety performance in itself, with individual showpieces like Kelle's tap dancing take on Michael Jackson's *Jam* and Vernie's besuited remake of Peter Dinklage's *Big Time*. Vocally, Easter took the driving seat as ever and never put a note wrong.

Thus their popcorn-munching faithful got what they came for, but in a curiously uninvolved show, Eternal seemed to have completed the journey from pop music to showbusiness, a sojourn on which spontaneity is just so much excess baggage.

PAUL SEXTON

## Not Ike's night

**FRESH** from cutting an all-star album with more guests than a Forté Travelodge, the guitarist Joe Louis Walker chose London to showcase two of them — the home-based saxman Otis Grand and, more importantly, the famous or, according to your point of view, infamous Ike Turner.

While Turner's personal values may have been questioned, his musical ones never have. Here is an artist whose roots stretch all the way back to Howlin' Wolf and Elmore James. Teaming him with Walker, one of the most soulful of the new generation of black blues artists, must have seemed an inspired move. Yet for all the talent on show, this was a sadly low-key, sometimes disjointed, evening which never lived up to its initial promise.

It started well enough with Walker displaying his updated brand of the kind of chunky rhythms and testifying vocals that used to come out of the Sixties studios in the 1960s and 1970s. Then Grand was called on stage to play a lap steel in

**Joe Louis Walker**  
**and Ike Turner**  
**Empire, W12**

an unexpected but welcome homage to the Texan steel guitar master, Hop Wilson.

Off went Grand, on came Turner. Well, almost. In an incident which summed up much of the evening, there was an introduction, a fanfare, but no Ike. "I guess he's still upstairs," said a sheepish Walker as the band rifled away. Turner finally appeared wearing white tie and white tails, looking remarkably good for his 65 years. He settled down at the keyboards for an almost solo Ray Charles-like number before launching into a pleasant, if slightly perfunctory, version of the old Joe Turner warhorse, *Shake, Rattle and Roll*. Getting into his stride, Turner followed that with a powerful boogie that "Pinetop Perkins taught me about 50 years ago". As the evening started to warm up, Turner switched to guitar and shared the vocals with Walker on *Early in the Morning*.

What appeared to be a classic night in the making then went awry as Ike introduced his wife Jeanette, a blonde, Pamela Anderson lookalike who shimmied on stage for a couple of songs and then shimmied off.

The rest of the evening had Turner switching from guitar to piano once more for a version of *Rocket 88*, and then letting Walker back into the spotlight as the show started to get back on to an even keel. By then, it was too late. The barn-like atmosphere of the Empire didn't help, more rehearsals would have eliminated the pauses between numbers, and the audience wasn't that receptive either. In the words of Turner's old Memphis chum B.B. King, the talent was here, "but the thrill had gone".

JOHN CLARKE

## Minghella's silence

**HAPPILY** timed to appear while Anthony Minghella is man of the month, a new theatre company (Rascal Productions) has revived a stage version of his 1989 radio play, originally also directed by himself and, like *The English Patient*, a winner of prizes.

The programme does not reveal who adapted the script for the stage, and perhaps only a minimum of adaptation was required since the essence of the piece is a young woman's decision to stop speaking, and the dialogue consists of attempts by her friends and lovers to combat this seemingly inexplicable act. In the theatre we are able to see the silent Gemma as well as not hearing her,

though something of her radio persona as a blank screen survives in David Shields's set, where books and bookcases, flowers and vase are all paper-white. However, look more carefully and these items are seen to belong to the stage territory where Gemma's friends complain about her. The space she inhabits, stretched out on cushions listening over and over again to the St Matthew Passion, is bright with colour. Her smart, loquacious, north London friends provide possible clues to her behaviour.

## THEATRE

**Cigarettes and Chocolate**  
**Man in the Moon**

**jour:** a Vietnamese orphan seen on an Italian holiday; a Tibetan monk immolating himself as a political protest; a bag lady at Waterloo. Minghella portrays her social contemporaries as casually unfeeling, although refer-

ences to suicidal mothers provide reminders that death crosses all boundaries.

In nearly every scene of Christopher G. Sandford's absorbing production, the characters speak against a background of other people's noise. Each himself is treated as background by Charlie Burnell's Rob, until Gemma ups the volume on her CD player and thus turns Rob's whingeing into the infernal noise she has positioned herself against.

Sandford's cast articulate Minghella's variously distinc-

tive speeches with unusual clarity, and the glimpses into the lives of Gemma's set are intriguing enough to leave one always wanting to know how their anecdotes will end and what can happen next. Precise acting from Burnell, from Julie-Kate Olivier's chilled wife and Claire Stockley's gushing mother-to-be, from Colin Peel's tolerated lover and from Jane Allighan's pre-Raphaelite-faced Gemma. From Jackie Sawiris, too, as an Argentinian psychiatrist now working as a cleaner, whose trembling lip when atrocities are mentioned would have been impossible to detect on radio.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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# Cicero's guide to the election

Peter Stothard on Paddy Ashdown's Golden Age

Once upon a time, long before people who gave electioneering advice were celebrated as spin-doctors, a certain very famous politician was fighting his first election for the consulship of Rome. Marcus Tullius Cicero, orator, intellectual and a man with little experience in public office, was campaigning in 63 BC against some of the best known, richest, most rapacious (and altogether sleaziest, as we would say) members of the Roman establishment. Cicero, like Tony Blair, seems to have been bright enough to recognise that he needed some help — and in the first "Handbook of Electioneering" to survive from the ancient world, he got it.

I was reminded of this on Saturday when Paddy Ashdown, after a week of watching headless chickens and bite-sized manifesto chunks, launched a desperate attack on the evils of the modern electoral process, damning the dominance of spinners and the dependency of office-seekers, praising by contrast the virtues of the lonely Liberal Democrat hero on his battlements. Before he tries to make this his travelling theme for the rest of the month, it would be worth his while to journey back in time a couple of millennia.

The supreme piece of campaigning advice for Cicero in the consular elections of 63 BC was one that Peter Mandelson and his men have incalculably in Labour from the beginning: focus, focus and focus once more. As the Handbook has it: "Every day as you go down to the Forum, repeat to yourself over and over again the words 'I am new... I seek the consulship... I am new... I seek the consulship...' Do not give up this 'morning meditation' until polling day is past."

The next most important tip from the ancient electioneer is to believe your own publicity. If the candidate believes that he is new, different and virtuous, so will the electorate. To quote the Handbook again: "Although nature is strong, an assumed personality can overcome the natural self for at least a campaign of a few months."

The third lesson is to recognise the vanity of your supporters and their desire to be part of a winning team. "Small-town and country folk think themselves our friends if we only know them by name. And that word 'friend', you should remember, has a wider application in an election than in the rest of life. Anyone who shows you some goodwill or calls upon you regularly is to be counted as a friend."

The fourth point is that support can often be bought very cheaply. "Very small promises," the writer insists, "can induce men to think they have a sufficient cause to support us. The fifth line of advice is 'to canvas continuously and to solicit the same people many times so that no one can say he has not been canvassed by you — and thoroughly and diligently canvassed too'."

The sixth is to gain publicity for your own brilliance and even greater publicity for "the crimes, lusts and bribes of your competitors". He tells his client to remember how "in a

previous election one of your opponents actually bought a young girlfriend in the open market and brazenly flaunted her as his own."

If we take all of these precepts together, it is hard to think of a pamphlet that so accurately sets out the role of the modern campaign manager in the age of new Labour, Neil Hamilton, direct mail, Millbank Tower, Piers Merchant and the overwhelming requirement to stay "on message".

Mr Ashdown may not, of course, have been sincere in his weekend lament for the days of politics without spin-doctors. The Liberal Democrat leader, with his military record, airy rhetoric and self-conscious nostalgia, is arguably the most Roman of all the candidates in this election. His profile is certainly better suited to the back of a bronze coin than either John Major's or Mr Blair's. Perhaps he was just promoting a line that he thought might win him votes, a tactic that the Handbook writer would most surely have endorsed.

Or perhaps he was simply being squeamish, content that advisers should advise but concerned that they were getting too much publicity. The self-described party of open government may prefer that that spin-doctors stay hidden in their surgeries. We are not, so far, seeing the like of Des Wilson in this Liberal Democrat campaign.

Perhaps, And yet, I have a sense that Mr Ashdown really believes in his Golden Age, that he yearns with all sincerity for the days before the Mandelsons and Wilsons and Saatchis were invented. It is a refrain that we have heard repeatedly over the past two weeks: why can the advisers not clear off and let the candidates be themselves. It is a hopeless refrain. It is hopeless because the art of democracy has been a science for as long as democracy has existed.

What was the election result in 63 BC, you may be asking. Well, Marcus Tullius Cicero, the new man facing the Roman establishment for the first time, won the consulship. Sergius Catilina, a thoroughly deserving target of the anti-sleaze campaign, was defeated. Did the victor follow the Handbook's advice down to the last letter? The great beauty of this particular spin-doctor's art is that we do not fully know.

The exact status of this fascinating 5,000-word text remains a mystery. Some scholars attribute it to Cicero's elegant younger brother, Quintus, who could thus be described as the Robert Kennedy of his time. Others, citing its un-Ciceronian style and rather too joyful use of jargon, have different explanations.

The truth, like the true records of Smith Square or Millbank today, could of course have proved embarrassing. The Handbook of Electioneering carries no fingerprints. It seems entirely fitting to the tradition of campaign management that this pioneering work should be direct, useful, cynical, true — and also, even two thousand years later, one hundred per cent deniable.

The future of the world may depend on the Middle East talks beginning today in Washington

# What has the new Jerusalem in store?

William Rees-Mogg

can remember an editorial discussion at the *Financial Times* — then still a small City paper produced in Coleman Street — in the mid-1950s. King Hussein of Jordan had just survived one of the numerous attempts on his life. One of us — perhaps it was one of my own mistaken forecasts — said: "I doubt if he can last three months." The others nodded their solemn agreement. He is still there 40 years later. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and the Gulf states, even the Palestinians themselves, have shown a similar resilience of apparently unstable regimes. Most of the regimes have actually lost wars and yet still survive.

Yet each setback in the peace process tends to radicalise the Arab world; it strengthens the extremist, terrorist and fundamentalist groups; it tends to discredit moderate governments; it alienates the young. One cannot assume, just because they have survived so many things in the past, that the moderate regimes would all survive a final breakdown in the peace process; certainly they might not be able to remain moderate. Yet the failure of the peace talks of 1972 led to the war of 1973 and to the oil shocks of the 1970s. With the growth of the Asian economies, including Japan and China, the world is in some ways more vulnerable to an oil shock than it was then.

Since the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, who was a just and strong man, the peace process has been greatly weakened. The immediate issue, which the

Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, will be discussing with President Clinton, is a local and apparently even trivial one which has become the focus of the main power struggle. Opinion among both Israelis and Palestinians has been inflamed by the Har Homa building project. The Israelis see it as a normal development of the suburbs of Jerusalem, matched by other developments for Arab families. The Arabs see it as a provocative extension of Israeli housing on Arab land. Avig-

halt the project would be a loss of face. Against an opponent as experienced in political manoeuvre as Mr Arafat, Mr Netanyahu can ill afford to climb down.

The American position before the talks contains a number of elements. There was the reassurance to Israel of last Thursday's announced increase in military aid; there will be support for small concessions to the Palestinians, including further sites for Arab building. The United States will press Mr Netanyahu to reduce the scale of new Israeli settlements, but Washington probably does not expect him to cancel Har Homa, or even think that he could afford to do so. All of this will not be enough to prevent a continued deterioration of the situation on the ground, with more riots, more bombs, and more deaths on both sides.

So far, Washington has wanted to continue the policy of gradualism in the peace talks, fearing that an attempt to tackle the big issues would lead to an irrevocable breakdown. Now opinion is changing. Different reports, presumably coming from different American sources, say that the United States is still in favour of the gradual approach, or, as from Bronwen Maddox in Washington, that "the United States has been pressing Israel to adopt a coalition 'government of national unity' and to move soon to talks with Yasser Arafat about the future of Jerusalem." This

is the high-risk, high-gain strategy. This forward strategy seems already to have persuaded Mr Netanyahu. He must be convinced that otherwise the situation can only continue to deteriorate. He is taking to Washington his own proposal to move rapidly to the most difficult issues, including the future status of Jerusalem. Mr Arafat probably agrees that the talks should be accelerated, but he is essentially a bargainer. He will not expect to get everything he wants at once, but further talks, with Israel under pressure, could give him a negotiating advantage. He would expect to gain some concessions.

Binyamin Netanyahu's formal position as Christopher Walker has reported it — is still one that no Palestinian leader could accept and expect to remain leader. He has committed himself to allowing "no retreat to the 1967 borders, no Palestinian state, no division of Jerusalem". He will not be able to secure any final peace settlement without the acceptance of a Palestinian state. Some revision of the pre-1967 borders in favour of Israel is a perfectly legitimate objective, which might possibly be achieved in negotiation against the acceptance of a Palestinian state. Jerusalem, the city of faiths, is the core issue, as it has been since 1967, when a Times leader for which I was responsible inadvertently awarded the long-term suzerainty of Jerusalem to the Palestinians in the first edition and to the Israelis in subsequent editions. Jerusalem is an object of human idealism so intense that no one who possesses it will give it up without a battle, and anyone who has recently lost it will seek to regain it. Belfast is a similar insoluble problem city, as President Clinton has already found. But Jerusalem is a far greater historic prize, and hence a greater historic problem, than Belfast could ever be.

# The convenience of silence

The box of sticky truths will fly open in 25 days' time, writes Peter Riddell



talking about a "boom" — since that implies the risk of over-rapid growth — but if there is a boom, now is not the time to be promising further tax cuts.

Gordon Brown complains that the Tory figures do not add up, and yet he cannot admit the need for monetary and fiscal tightening, for fear of being accused of planning such measures. Instead, he merely talks about Labour's plans not requiring additional taxes, so he can appear shocked and horrified in a month's time if he becomes Chancellor when he sees "the books". Of course, he already knows perfectly well what the true position is. He has fostered false expectations by talking about cutting VAT on domestic fuel and aiming, as a "long-term objective", for a 10p starting rate of income tax. The Governor of the Bank of

England shattered these illusions last Thursday when he warned that interest rates should rise to slow the rapid pace of expansion and to guard against inflation. Mr Clarke dismisses his well-known differences with Mr George as merely being about a quarter of one percentage point, but that trivialises and muddies the matter. If the economy is as strong as the Tories claim, interest rates should rise soon, although given the strength of sterling and market uncertainties there is probably an even stronger case for several billion pounds of tax increases and public spending cuts.

Mr Clarke should be able to fend off Mr George until polling day, but the Chancellor and the Governor are due to meet on May 7, six days later. Do not expect the politicians to prepare voters during the campaign for higher interest rates then, let alone for higher taxes later.

There is a similar air of make-believe about the debate about Europe. John Major and Robin Cook seemed to be competing yesterday over who could add the more "verbs" to "unlikely" in describing the chances of Britain entering a single currency in the next Parliament. But that will not be the most pressing European matter after May 1. Nor is the most crucial consideration whether or not Britain signs the social chapter, important though that could be in the long-term for business costs and regulation.

The real question is what attitude a new government takes at the Amsterdam summit of European leaders in June. The Tories argue that only they

will assert Britain's national interests and resist the tide of integration, while Labour talks as if everything will be all right because it will be able to build new partnerships in Europe, while opposing a "federal super-state". Much of this is wishful thinking. The difference is over the leaders' room for manoeuvre. Tony Blair would be able to agree some limited extensions of qualified majority voting and revision of the powers of the European Parliament. The Tories oppose such changes, but as some MEPs have been warning, the party's inflexible stance risks making negotiations impossible and making other countries even keener on a multi-tier Europe.

Both main parties oppose many proposals likely to be put forward at Amsterdam for closer integration of foreign, defence, immigration and home affairs policies. There has, for example, been hardly any discussion in our election of the Franco-German plan for moving towards a European defence policy separate from Nato. But the reality behind these aspirations was underlined on Thursday when Chancellor Kohl concluded his annual slimming retreat in Austria with the announcement that he would seek re-election next year. Whether or not he succeeds then, the Chancellor's decision will give fresh political momentum to the drive for monetary union and closer integration. So Britain will face tricky choices which the Tories and Labour are trying to dodge in the election.

The Civil Service has, I am sure, a list of other pressing issues for the incoming government which are hardly being discussed in the election: the handover of Hong Kong to China; the Madrid summit on expansion of Nato (almost solely a matter for foreign policy specialists in Britain); the looming crisis in the prisons as numbers overflow; how to revive talks in Northern Ireland (despite the IRA's latest operations). These and other matters will have to be faced within two months of the election. For the moment, the politicians prefer the familiar evasions of campaigning. But the real world is just 25 days away.

# Free vote

KENSINGTON is fizzing with speculation on the voting intentions of Diana, Princess of Wales. She is registered, along with the other 70 residents of Kensington Palace, to vote in the Campden ward of Kensington and Chelsea, a safe Tory seat which should fall into the sweaty clasp of that old satyr Alan Clark at the election.

While she was married to the Prince of Wales she was bound by convention not to exercise her right

to vote. Now, however, she is more of a free agent, and may be inclined to take her revenge on the Tories. She has her reasons.

First, there was the Defence Minister, Nicholas Soames, a friend of the Prince, who publicly questioned her mental state after her *Panorama* interview. Then there was the junior defence minister Earl Howe, who as good as told her to keep her snout out of politics when she spoke out about land

mines. Clark's adulterous past may not play too well either on the fitness machines.

None of which has stopped the Tories pitching for her vote. "With her interest in charities, the Princess will be aware that charitable giving is growing tremendously under this Government," says a desperate spinner in Tory central office. The Lib Dem's hope: the Princess will be enticed by their plans for nursery schools, but Labour will not comment. None of the parties has so far formulated plans for door-stopping the palace.

Among those caught at Aintree over the weekend was Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman and racing tipster. Yesterday he returned to pick up his car, only to find his keys were in a sealed off area. Having missed a *Dinbleby* interview and torn up the rest of his schedule for the day, he wandered into the road, telling a policeman he was off to do some sightseeing.

## Last Waugh

PITY Auberon Waugh, once a peerless establishment baiter, now gone soft and captaining the holed dignity of *The Literary Review* magazine. The other day, he received an



invitation to a party being held by a certain wealthy philanthropist. Waugh had been greatly looking forward to some grand hobnobbing, until he read the name on the card: "Evelyn Waugh".

For a man never fully reconciled to living in his father's shadow, this was a stinging insult. He spent the rest of the day shuffling around muttering like a Russian poet broken by a stint down the salt mines.

## Final frame

ONE of cinema's landmarks was demolished on Friday by Camden Council. William Friese-Greene shot a series of images on celluloid of Rotten Row in Hyde Park in 1890. He then projected the moving pictures onto his wall at 136 Maida

Vale. So excited was he by his work, which marked the beginning of cinema, that he grabbed a policeman off the street to come in and look, a moment recorded in the film *The Magic Box*, which starred Robert Donat and Laurence Olivier. Not that this meant anything to Camden Council.

In Paris, the home of Lumière, the inventor of the cine-camera, is a national museum, but when Friese-Greene's home was knocked down, all the council building officer could say was "Who cares? It was a very grotty little building."

## High flyer

IT used to be Sir Tim Bell or Rothschilds bank that helped aspiring Tories in need of work between elections. Now Michael Green, the elusive chairman of the media group Carlton, has joined the gang. With his current director of communications, David Cameron, expecting to keep the Stafford constituency Tory, Green has found one of the Prime Minister's closest aides to replace him.

George Bridges, 27, is currently assistant political secretary to the PM, responsible for writing many of his speeches and newspaper articles. All wispy blond hair and tor-

toiseshell glasses, Bridges, from Eton and Oxford, is a high-energy customer, and his office is entertained by an endless succession of cut-glass female voices phoning to talk to him.

A notable victory for Alan Stanford, who is directing Harold Pinter in Pinter's own play *The Collection* at the Gate Theatre, Dublin. He claims to have triumphed over Pinter in an argument over the text. As Pinter's publishers, Faber & Faber, can attest, the black poloneer is a textual stroller. Once, at his insistence, they had to insert a correction slip into thousands of copies of his plays because a full stop had been printed instead of a comma.

## Eh? Eh?

DESPITE the panning handed out to his debut novel, *Sap Rising*, A.A. "Don't call me Adrian" Gill can console himself that he still has one loyal fan in the shape of his girlfriend, Nicola Formby. On entering the Pan Bookshop in the Fulham Road last week, Miss Formby, a statuesque shopping journalist, was dismayed not to be able to find her man's novel.

"She asked very loudly and ag-



Nicola Formby: snorted

gressively where it was", says an onlooker. "She introduced herself as Nicola Formby and expected the hapless shop assistant to know who she was." Happily, a large pile of the books was pointed out to her on a display table, at which point she snorted and left.

P.H.S



Ward-mates, Diana and Tory candidate Alan Clark







## OUT OF THE RACE

Politicians must ignore IRA attempts to influence the election

The IRA disruption of Saturday's Grand National was a carefully conceived political coup designed to influence the general election and its aftermath in Sinn Féin's interests. It was the continuation of republican politics by odious means. IRA strategists choreographed the scare to secure headlines and make Northern Ireland's future an essential issue in this campaign.

Although the Prime Minister has argued that republicans are wholly wrong if they think that by threatening thousands of people they will win support, the IRA will be well satisfied with its work. The more that republicans make violence a problem, the better placed Sinn Féin believes it will be to pose as the solution.

Republicans are attempting to blackmail the Northern Ireland electorate and the next British government into voting for, and talking to, them as the only route to peace. The only appropriate response from voters and politicians should be an uncompromising rejection of a movement itself incapable of compromise. Republicans wish to make what they depict as the violent consequence of Northern Ireland's present constitutional position a central issue in this election. If they can restrict disruption to the British mainland, so much the better. Voters in Ulster will be forcibly reminded of the continuance of the conflict without, republicans hope, being too directly affected. Blame for the violence is placed on the British Government for having shown "bad faith" and allowing the peace process to collapse.

This is historical nonsense and a dangerous myth, which constitutional politicians should not nurture with careless talk. The blame for the collapse of the peace process rests entirely with republicans and their decision to go back to war even though the offer of talks without prior de-commissioning was on offer. It was foolish of John Prescott to imply earlier in the campaign that blame should attach to the

Prime Minister for mismanaging the process. Mr Major, like the voters of Northern Ireland and the racegoers of Aintree, is the victim of republican cynicism.

Having chosen war, Sinn Féin now has the audacity to claim that a vote for it is a vote for peace. The republicans are trying to persuade Northern Ireland voters that strong support for Sinn Féin at the polls will make it more difficult for a future British government to deny the party a place at talks. Sinn Féin hopes that the voters will back it not necessarily out of enthusiasm but in the hope that a republican entry into talks will bring an end to violence.

Northern Ireland voters should resist the Provisionals' protection racket. Far from interpreting an increase in their vote as a yearning for peace, republicans will use it as evidence of support for their strategy. The tactical use of the armed struggle would have yielded one of its results, the cowering of Ulster's population.

The other intended result is the weakening of the British Government's resolve. Comments by Dr Marjorie Mowlam, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, concerning the desirability of a ceasefire and the prospect of Sinn Féin's entry into talks after two months, have been read by republicans as a promising sign.

The only effective way to respond to the IRA's strategy is to proceed without it. Rather than courting republicans, Dr Mowlam should be concentrating on how to bring together democratic parties, Unionists and nationalists, to give Ulster stability. There is no point in trying to negotiate with the republicans; their strategy is unchanged and unchanging. Unless republicans prove their commitment to peace by throwing down the weapons they flourished in Belfast last week, there is no merit in treating with them. The Grand National should go ahead today without republican intervention and so should the peace process.

## POLICY AND THE WORLD

Labour wants to focus on rights, aid and the Commonwealth

Douglas Hurd's proudest boast was that since the Conservatives came to power, Britain has been "punching above its weight." Ever since the Falklands War, the party argues, Britain has had a military and political influence far beyond its wealth and geography. It has taken part in all the main United Nations peacekeeping operations. It is an active member of the UN Security Council, often formulating the resolutions that determine world affairs. It still exerts an enormous influence through a network of contacts in traditional areas of influence such as Africa and the Middle East, and through the world dominance of English and the two bodies spreading British culture in that medium, the British Council and the BBC. In short, if the feel-good factor is yet to assert itself at home and is clearly absent in Europe, in the world beyond our Continent Britain is booming.

Labour has no interest in quarrelling with such an assertion. Foreign policy is largely bipartisan, and Labour has supported the Government in the global issues that have preoccupied Britain, the wars in Bosnia and the Gulf, political and economic reform in Russia and Eastern Europe, enlargement of the European Union and Nato, Hong Kong, the Middle East and the environment. In large swaths of foreign affairs Labour policy needed no wrenching modernisation. Neither was there partisan advantage to be gained by harrasing the Government. Foreign policy will therefore play only a small part in the campaign.

Nevertheless, Labour has now discovered areas where it thinks the Conservatives are vulnerable. Some are those where Labour has traditionally taken a high moral tone: overseas aid and human rights. Under the

Tories, the proportion of GNP devoted to foreign aid has fallen from 0.51 to 0.29 per cent. And while the Conservatives have pioneered the successful Know-How Fund to help former communist countries adapt to market economies, help for the world's poorest has decreased. Giving taxpayers' money to foreigners is never popular, but Labour believes it can tap into the idealism of a young generation that has generously supported refugees and the world's starving. A Cabinet-level Minister for International Development would be a signal that not all Labour's soft-hearted policies have been cast aside.

On human rights, Robin Cook has already signalled a more aggressive approach. In most areas the cost is cheap: calling for oil sanctions against Nigeria or a trade and tourist boycott of the military junta in Burma carries a comparatively small price. The bigger test will be whether Labour would risk export sales by offending tribal Gulf rulers. It has denounced their crackdown on democrats and dissidents as vigorously as it has the Government's "craven" safeguarding of arms exports.

More effective is Labour's new-found championing of causes traditionally dear to Tory voters, the Commonwealth, the British Council and the diplomatic service itself, all of which have felt starved of funds and attention. Government disregard for the Commonwealth stemmed from Margaret Thatcher's contempt for its insistence on tougher sanctions against South Africa and the "liberationist" rhetoric of Third World members. But many Conservatives see the Commonwealth as a vibrant legacy of earlier days when Britain punched above its weight. In this field, as in domestic affairs, Labour wants to steal their clothes.

## FULL CYCLE

Times and costs have changed for environmentalists

Fashionable ideas have a life of their own which can make them impervious to reason. Well-meaning consumers glow with pride as they toss a bottle into the recycling skip, having carried it there in the back of the car. They dutifully collect heaps of old newspapers, believing that they are helping to save the Amazon rainforest. The creed is simple: dumping rubbish in the ground is bad; burning it is worse; the only virtuous option is to recycle it.

Economics makes nonsense of most of these claims. The money saved by recycling a kilo of glass will drive a car only a mile and a quarter. Glass is made from sand, a raw material that is plentiful and cheap. Scrap glass saves at most a third of the energy needed to make glass. Set against that the extra energy costs of transporting the waste extra energy costs of transporting the waste its limitations. In effect, one raw material is being saved at the cost of another, in a process that leaves everyone the poorer.

As for paper, it comes from a raw material that is the world's best candidate for long-term sustainability, wood. Trees are a renewable resource, and those that are used for making paper come almost entirely from managed forests in the North. Only one per cent of the world's paper is harvested from the rainforests, which are being cleared for agriculture, not to satisfy the developed world's appetite for newsprint. Paper can be recycled economically, but government tar-

gets such as those set by Germany disrupt the system, creating a surplus of waste paper that has to be dumped on other countries, depressing prices.

Insisting that paper suppliers meet a fixed recycling target generates yet further difficulties, by forcing countries without enough waste paper of their own to import it so that they can export it again as finished paper. Even the most besotted environmentalist cannot believe that sending shiploads of waste paper from Germany to Scandinavia makes economic sense.

In the US, reality may be breaking through. Marion Barry, the Mayor of Washington, has decided to suspend the city's elaborate recycling scheme on the grounds that it is a luxury the nation's capital can no longer afford. The division of household waste into plastics, aluminium, glass and paper pushes up collection costs to a massive \$200 a ton, while simple collection would cost a mere \$25 a ton.

The problem is that the value of household waste is low, no greater in money terms than it was in 1950. Then labour was cheap, and raw materials expensive, so that the value of the waste would have justified efforts to separate and recycle it. Since then the cost of raw materials has fallen, while the cost of labour has risen, tilting the balance against recycling. But persuading green ideologists of this uncomfortable fact may not be easy, as Mr Barry is about to discover.

## House of Lords: reform v abolition

From Mr John Birchmore

Sir, The democratic form of second chamber is one elected by universal suffrage (letters, March 25 and 31). Any other proposal implies a lack of faith in the electorate or a suggestion that democracy does not work.

I for one have had enough of the elitism of the current system; I support having an elected second chamber forthwith and will accept any shortcomings.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN BIRCHMORE,  
24 Lyne Park,  
West Linton, Peebles-shire,  
April 5.

From Mr Marcus Elliott

Sir, Your correspondence concerning the reform of the House of Lords appears to omit the ultimate reform — abolition.

A second chamber is required and it must be within the grasp of a modern industrialised country to devise some form of election to such a body (the Americans managed it over 200 years ago).

Most observers agree that the House of Lords does its job well, but that does not alter the fact that it is wrong.

Yours,  
MARCUS ELLIOTT,  
Pen Dinas,  
Great Orme, Llandudno, Conwy,  
April 4.

From Mr Patrick Forde

Sir, Does the House of Lords inflict harm or annoyance on anyone other than the Government of the day, from time to time?

If not, why change it?

Yours,  
PATRICK FORDE,  
Seaford Estate Office,  
Seaford, Co Down,  
March 25.

## Labour and unions

From Mr Robbie Gilbert

Sir, Much of our employment law, particularly an employee representation, now derives from Europe — which is why Labour's proposals for statutory recognition of trade unions (Tony Blair's article, March 31) look so strange and worrying to many businesses.

Works councils with rights of information and consultation are the usual arrangement for workplace representation on the Continent, and the European Commission has well advanced plans to extend them to every undertaking with more than ten employees. Employers have their doubts about the desirability of these committees, but as Mr Blair would sign the Social Chapter, the likelihood is that all but the smallest British companies will, in due course, be required to introduce something along these lines here too.

Why, then, do we need recognition laws such as those in force in the United States? By importing them to a UK bound by European law, we could end up with more onerous and restrictive obligations on British firms than those applying elsewhere in Europe, and British firms alone could find themselves obliged to run a parallel system of local negotiations. These cover much the same ground, and impose an additional and much more demanding obligation to reach agreements with trade union officials on these and other matters.

The risks are clear: conflicting accounts of employee views, too much management time being taken up on industrial relations, damaging delays in decision-making, and/or loss of flexibility which will damage exports and jobs.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBBIE GILBERT  
(Director for Social and Employment Policy),  
European Public Policy Advisers,  
12-14 Denman Street, W1,  
April 1.

## Power of office

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, In October 1959, in my first term as headmaster of Bryanston, a general election was called.

I suggested to the boys that we should hold a mock general election in the school. The proposal was greeted with a degree of apathy. In order to stimulate interest I floated the idea that, in addition to the three main parties, there should be candidates representing other interests — for example, Cornish nationalism.

A few days before the election debate a worried head boy arrived in my study. "Headmaster," he said, "I think you should cancel the election. There has been a pitched battle in the main hall between the Realists and the Idealists." Cancel a general election? Now, there was a thought.

In the event, the election took place. But I had glimpsed power.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBSON FISHER,  
Craig Cottage, Lower Street,  
Dittisham, Dartmouth, Devon,  
April 6.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Action demanded for Scots guards

From Major-General Murray Naylor and Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett

Sir, We are writing to you in what remains of the life of this Government to publicise the situation of two Scots Guardsmen who have now been in custody in Northern Ireland for four and a half years.

The facts are briefly as follows. When on operational patrol in Belfast on September 4, 1992, guardsmen James Fisher and Mark Wright were involved in an incident as a result of which a man was shot dead. The circumstances were fully investigated, they were subsequently charged with murder, tried before a judge-only Diplock Court, found guilty and sentenced to a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. Subsequent appeals have been dismissed or refused.

Last December a High Court judge, Mr Justice Givan, ordered the Northern Ireland Office to review the two soldiers' cases. In the process quashing the NIO's decision not to do so before the end of 1998. As far as we can ascertain this internal review has not progressed very far and, despite pressure from MPs, members of the House of Lords, the media and from many people of different backgrounds

and viewpoints across the country, there appears little urgency within the NIO to expedite matters.

Meanwhile, the two guardsmen languish in Maghaberry prison devoid of hope, doubtless contemplating how the course their lives are taking is being determined by the political expediency which seems always to rule in Northern Ireland.

While the two guardsmen made a tragic error of judgment, both acted in good faith, in pursuit of an operational policy laid down by the Government which sent them to Ulster. They were caught up in the maelstrom of bigotry and resentment which so often dictates what happens there. To be condemned to an interminable period for carrying out orders seems to be grossly unfair.

We believe it behoves the outgoing Government and the present Secretary of State to review these cases as a matter of urgency. Indeed we consider that they have a clear duty to do so.

Yours sincerely,  
MURRAY NAYLOR,  
DAVID SCOTT-BARRETT,  
Headquarters, Scots Guards,  
Wellington Barracks,  
Birdcage Walk, SW1,  
April 2.

## Modern morality

From the Earl of Longford

Sir, When the subject of homosexuality, and in particular "gay" Christianity, comes up (letters, March 29) I inevitably parade my ancient medals.

About 40 years ago I was the first public man who dared initiate a debate in Parliament in favour of the Wolfenden report which recommended that sex between consenting male adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence. A little earlier I had founded, with the help of others, The New Bridge for all ex-prisoners. I still treasure Lord Boothby's description of me as "the non-playing captain of the homosexual team".

No Christian will blame those who love men more than women though they may feel sorry for them. But never at any time did I suggest that

sex between men is morally permissible.

Two of the Evangelists, Luke and Mark, describe Christ as placing adultery at the top of the list of sins. How could any "gay" Christian seriously suggest that sex between men is morally superior to that between a man and a woman outside marriage? The Archbishop of Canterbury has reminded us that in Christian eyes sex outside marriage should be regarded as shameful (report, March 25).

St Augustine said it clearly for all time — we must condemn the sin and love the sinner. Bearing in mind that we are all sinners in our various ways we do well to follow St Augustine's guidance.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANK LONGFORD,  
House of Lords,  
March 31.

## The cult phenomenon

From Mr Ian Haworth

Sir, Contrary to the assertion by Dr Peter Haywood of the Maudsley Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry that most cults recruit "adolescents or just post-adolescent outsiders" (Medical briefing, March 28), the opposite is the case. People of all ages are recruited. The 39 who died in California (report, same day) were between the ages of 20 and 72, with most in their 40s.

Dr Tanmay Sharma, a psychiatrist at the Maudsley, also suggested that in some cases those attracted to cults are less well balanced than normal. This is another promotion of a stereotype. Experts in the US who for 20 years have researched the cult phenomenon suggest that most victims are normal and healthy prior to involvement.

The most vulnerable are intelligent, well educated and economically advantaged. They are professional people and high achievers.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN HAWORTH  
(General Secretary),  
Cult Information Centre,  
BCM Cults, London WC1N 3XX,  
April 1.

## In every pie

From the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Sir, We wholeheartedly echo the point made by Sir Anthony Alment regarding the unhygienic practices of TV cooks (letter, April 2). Cookery programmes are watched by millions of people, many of whom are responsible for preparing food for young families. These would seem an ideal medium through which to get across basic food hygiene messages, with a view to helping reduce the ever increasing number of food poisoning cases.

Instead we are subjected to TV

## Custody of children

From Dr Richard Freeman

Sir, The tragic separation of the Layle children from their mother and now living with their German father (Body and mind, April 1) is not unusual. It happens to British men who are similarly excluded by the rulings of courts, the prejudices of society, or unilateral action by the mother.

In the Layle case a man took his children back to his own country to care for them. If a woman had behaved similarly I suspect it would be considered more than a mother fulfilling her duty of care.

The presumption of UK society, supported by the courts, is that mothers have a greater right to be with, care for and enjoy their children than do fathers. This implied right is translated into actuality if the children have lived with one parent immediately after a break-up so as to prevent further distress. It is no more the mother's right to keep the children than it is the father's. The British have a Victorian mindset to the contrary.

Yours etc,  
RICHARD FREEMAN,  
101 Castle Street,  
Saffron Walden, Essex,  
April 2.

cooks wearing rings the size of ostrich eggs, tasting food with their fingers and using raw eggs in food without giving the necessary warnings about the possible health risks.

We appreciate that cookery programmes must entertain, but it is a wasted opportunity not to use them at the same time to educate and inform the public.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL COOKE,  
Chief Executive,  
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health,  
Chadwick Court,  
15 Hatfields, SE1,  
April 2.

## PRO museum

From Mr Paul Luscombe

Sir, The Public Record Office's bid for lottery funding to establish a museum at Kew (report, March 17) should be debated rather than left for officials and their consultants to decide.

The idea of such a museum is not, of course, new. I have beside me the catalogue of museum exhibits published by the PRO in 1948 which also describes the grounds used to justify the opening of the museum at Chancery Lane in 1902. Interestingly, the reasoning of the then deputy keeper, Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte, was much the same as that of the present keeper: to attract more people to the PRO.

At least two things have changed since 1902. One is the technology for transmitting information. The other is that the records are immeasurably less accessible now, not only because the PRO has moved to Kew, but also because far more of its "real" users (or its potential clients) are located outside the home counties. There are strong arguments for using the technology to decentralise the PRO and

for persuading its mandarins that most serious research takes place outside London.

Experiments with the Internet are welcome (particularly if the objectives are better focused than achieving a few thousand visitors to the web site), but there are other ways of making the resources of the PRO genuinely available to libraries, schools, colleges and universities. Investment in an easily accessible micro-form copying service and developing a range of inexpensive learning materials on CD-Rom are two possibilities. If asked, the various sectors of the education world could probably suggest other ideas.

Have the capital and running costs of a new museum been properly tested against other proposals, or are the vested interests in the current proposal too entrenched to take a broader view? And has the thinking in the PRO about the rest of the country changed since 1902?

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL LUSCOMBE,  
8 Newbold Close, Bentley Heath,  
Solihull, West Midlands,  
April 4.

## Are we learning to beat IRA's tactics?

From Mr Kenneth Hoole

Sir, At the start of the Second World War a solitary Heinkel, it was said, could bring much of the country almost to a stop. The sirens would go and the shelters would fill. We eventually realised that this was not the way to win the war and sirens began to sound only locally and as required.

Now, much smaller bombs, and sometimes no bombs at all, close large parts of London, Aintree, much of the Midlands and beyond.

What is the answer this time? We must find one soon. At present the IRA is winning on points.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH HOOLE,  
105 Wood Vale, SE23,  
April 6.

## Soaking up science

From Dr D. W. O'Hara

Sir, Nigel Hawkes ("Jogging scientists solve problem of staying drier", March 27; letters, April 1 and 4) quotes a formula that describes how wet a moving meteorologist gets in the rain. I must point out that this formula, in which the top surface area (A) is independent of the velocity (v), is strictly applicable only to legless meteorologists.

A running person's legs alternately project in front of and behind his torso, and his mean top surface area depends on the extent of this projection. I measured a sociologist (no meteorologist being to hand at the time), and found that the mean horizontal component of the surface area of the legs while jogging would be roughly equal to the surface area of the shoulders. For a sprinting sociologist, the effect would be even more pronounced.

I am left reflecting on the means of propulsion employed by the meteorologists to whom the formula applies. It would certainly provide a fair approximation to a fat meteorologist with skinny legs, or alternatively, to a scurrying meteorologist in a raincoat. Since neither would be likely to achieve the speeds cited in the report, I can only conclude that it is intended to describe a meteorologist on a skateboard.

Is it possible that the legless nature of these meteorologists explains why they keep getting caught out in the rain?

Yours faithfully,  
D. W. O'HARA,  
9 Blenheim Drive, Bredon,  
Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire,  
April 5.

## School style

From Mr J. P. Toomey

Sir, The dress of teachers has perhaps always been a matter for critical gaze (report, "Broke teachers are labelled scruffs by smart pupils", March 27). When I started teaching Classics in the early 1950s, the "designer clothing" of the day was sports jacket and flannels, a dress frowned upon by some of the older masters with their dark but visibly chalky suits.

But gowns covered any sartorial sins, and allowed for idiosyncrasy. I remember that the senior maths master's gown had belonged to his grandfather, and was not only in rags but green with age; and I confess that mine, having been gradually shredded by door handles and other obstacles, had its tattered sleeves tied up in knots and was held together elsewhere by safety pins.

Like teachers' dress today, it must have excited some critical comments from pupils, but in those days, of course, they kept such comments to themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
J. P. TOOMEY,  
3 St Bartholomew's Road,  
Arley Kings,  
Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire,  
March 27.

## Seeing it through

From Mrs J. Mansfield

Sir, I am dismayed that for many years I have been using my trolley shopping trolley, not realising that it is the "sine qua non of frumpery" ("Trolley dollies", Style, April 2). But then I have been labouring under the misapprehension that the purpose of a shopping trolley is to make light work of transporting one's shopping.

I now realise that it is really a means of displaying one's (expensive) purchases in order to impress others.

Yours faithfully,  
JANET MANSFIELD,  
12 Oxhill Road,  
Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire,  
April 2.

## Seeing stars

From Mr Keith Kellett

Sir, I read with interest yesterday your report that British Forces television is to scramble its broadcasts in Cyprus to prevent non-Servicemen viewers picking up its programmes, including those featuring Cilla Black, Jim Davidson and Mr Blobby.

Might I ask if there are any plans to introduce such a scrambling service in this country and, if so, how I join?

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH KELLETT,  
5 Burwood Close,  
Amesbury, Salisbury Wiltshire,  
April 3.







## OBITUARIES

Allen Ginsberg, poet, died on April 5 aged 70. He was born on June 3, 1926.

Whether as a prophetic bard or a pretentious beatnik, Allen Ginsberg has survived for four decades as an icon of American counterculture. He was one of the last survivors of the Beats, a cool cabal of mid-Fifties writers who, centring on Jack Kerouac, sought to rebel against staid, middle-class convention.

"Hold back the edges of your gowns, Ladies, we are going through hell," wrote William Carlos Williams in his introduction to Ginsberg's 1955 poem *Howl*. A court case ensued in which the publisher was, unsuccessfully, prosecuted for obscenity. *Howl* at once became one of the most widely circulated books of the time, a bible for a beatnik youth. Its opening lines remain one of the most notorious passages in postwar American poetry: "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, / Dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn / looking for an active fix".

It was never quite clear what exactly the Beats stood for. Jack Kerouac had coined the name, playing with its punning overtones of "beaten down" and "beatified". But broadly speaking, its key writers — Kerouac and Ginsberg, William Burroughs and Gregory Corso — aimed to cast aside the proprieties of English prosody and to play with the rhythms and improvisations of American jazz. Instead, their work had a dramatic immediacy.

To his admirers Ginsberg was seen to have liberated American poetry, in the same way as John Osborne revitalised English theatre with *Look Back in Anger*. He recorded the rhythms of voices around him and conveyed his most vivid feelings in the long tumbling lines which became his trademark style. His work has now become mainstream. It is found on university syllabuses all over the world.

Yet Ginsberg never won a major literary prize. And there is another school of thought which finds his work free-wheeling and shallow — the rantings of a drug-befuddled mind. Ginsberg did, in-

deed, experiment with a bewildering array of narcotics from mescaline to morphine, from dope to LSD. Bob Dylan, with whom he collaborated for some time, once described him as a "con man extraordinaire"; while John Giorno, the poet and former lover of Andy Warhol, described him as "the founding father of bullshit liberals".

But, whatever the criticisms, Ginsberg was, as one of his biographers put it, "the most practically effective drop-out around". He was the model non-conformist, the archetypal gay rights activist, the classic campaigner against censorship. And in later age he would hold forth on any of these subjects in lengthily repetitive monologues. He virtually invented "flower power" and the fashion for bald, bearded men in home-stitched sandals.

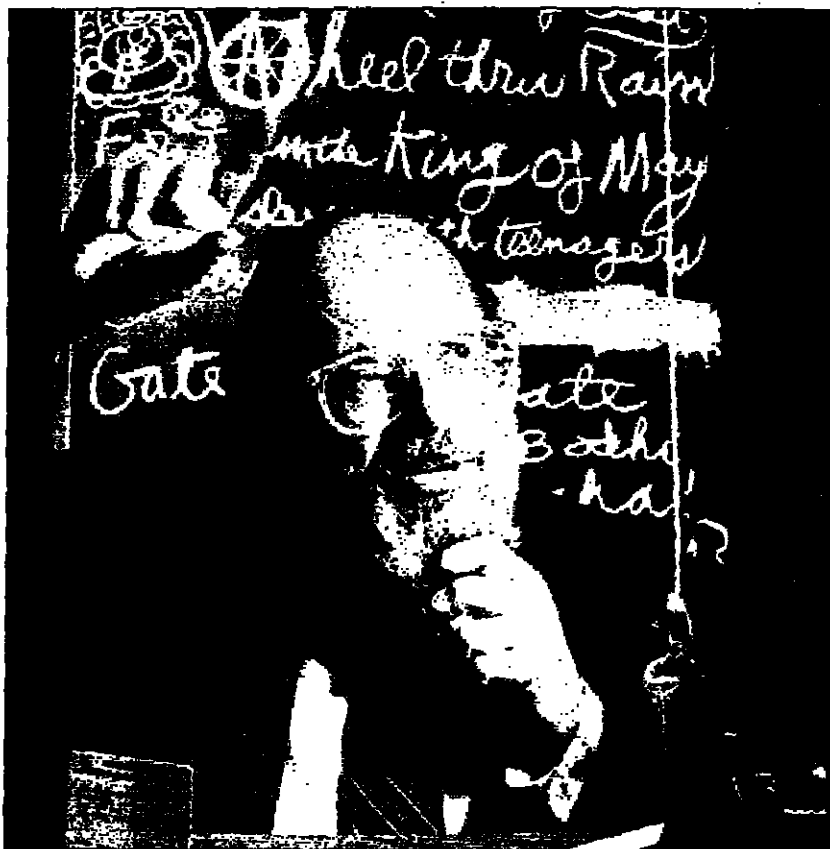
He became something of an institution, renowned for such declarations as "poetry is best read naked" and such outlandish feats, as the time he removed all his clothing at a party, except for his underpants which he balanced on his head. A "please do not disturb sign" was suspended from his penis. At one point he spent some time learning to dance like a kangaroo from an aboriginal instructor.

Yet if his exploits sometimes appeared ludicrous, Ginsberg proved an adroit survivor. He outlived most of his enemies including J. Edgar Hoover, who declared covert war on the Beats, and McCarthy and his witchhunters. And if he saw one generation grow out of his work, a new one arose to show themselves interested. In later years he collaborated with such bands as The Clash, Sonic Youth and, most recently, Bono of U2.

Allen Ginsberg was born in New Jersey, the son of a Russian Jewish immigrant. His father, Louis, was a school-teacher, and a poet of modest repute. He and his wife Naomi — in her youth an articulate and idealistic Marxist — were enthusiasts of naturism. But as a boy Allen led a disturbed life. Few visitors came to the house for, as his mother's periodic bouts of schizophrenia intensified, she routinely walked about naked crying out that her mother-in-law was trying to kill her with poison gas.

At the age of five Ginsberg watched

## ALLEN GINSBERG



from his cot as his mother set fire to the house and when he was nine he was standing outside the bathroom door while she, locked inside, slashed her wrists with a knife. His second major poem *Kaddish* (1960) was inspired by a memory of his mother cooking him supper while she told him of her meeting with God: "the Charity of her hands stinking with Manthan, madness, desire to please me, cold undercooked fish — pale red near the bones. Her smells — and oft naked in the room, so that I stare ahead, or turn a book ignoring her." In 1947 — long after the

divorce of their parents — Allen Ginsberg and his elder brother Gene were finally to sign consent for their mother to be lobotomised.

Ginsberg was educated in Paterson, New Jersey, and went on to Columbia University intending to become a lawyer. Although he proved himself extremely bright, he was suspended for writing obscene graffiti on the dirty windows of his dormitory. Eventually allowed to resume his studies, he graduated in 1948.

In the interim, however, Ginsberg had already started on his unofficial educa-

tion. He had worked several short stints as a messman in the Merchant Navy and had his first homosexual encounter with a middle-aged sailor. He had fallen under the influence of William Burroughs who, 12 years his senior, had a flat nearby. Burroughs had not yet written a book; it was to be Ginsberg who eventually persuaded him to do so. He had also been in trouble with the police after his flat was used as a base for a robbery. "Genius Columbia Student. Master of Crime Ring," read the headlines of the local paper.

To avoid prosecution as an accomplice, Ginsberg pleaded insanity and spent eight months in a mental hospital. But perhaps he was not altogether unsuited for the place. He had been using hallucinogens heavily — God had spoken to him while he was reading Blake, he said. He met Carl Solomon in the asylum, to whom he later dedicated *Howl*.

On his discharge Ginsberg found desultory employment on a magazine, in a ribbon factory in New Jersey and as a market research consultant in San Francisco. But then in 1954 he met Peter Orlovsky who was to remain his lifelong companion. And in that year he finally decided to dedicate himself to "Blake, smoking pot, and doing whatever I wanted to do". He never looked back.

Drawn to San Francisco by what he called "its long tradition of Bohemia", he met and mixed with such San Francisco poets as Robert Duncan, Gary Snyder and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. It was the last who, in 1956, published the poem *Howl*. Ferlinghetti was charged with obscenity and Ginsberg's reputation was made.

He went on to publish some ten more volumes of poetry as well as copious journals. He also made a number of "spontaneous films". During the 1960s he travelled extensively, including to India to study Buddhism, to Cuba where he publicly attacked the Castro Government for its repression of homosexuals, and to England where he accompanied Bob Dylan on his *Don't Look Back* tour. In London he performed at the Royal Albert Hall, accompanying himself on the harmonium. He and his friend, Gregory Corso, took the opportunity to visit

W. H. Auden in Oxford. Corso attempted to kiss the turn ups of Auden's trousers. During another encounter with a famous poet, the 82-year-old Ezra Pound, Ginsberg played him the Beatles *Yellow Submarine*. "He seemed to like it," he said. "He tapped his stick."

All over America, Ginsberg gave countless poetry readings and held "office hours" at universities. He was a presence at everything from "be-ins" — mass outdoor festivals of chanting costumes and music — to anti-war protests. He spoke out at first for the legalisation of drugs, although gradually he came to regret his involvement in the drugs scene and toured universities instead preaching the superiority of yoga and meditation over narcotic abuse — although he still claimed that LSD had enabled him to pray for President Lyndon Johnson instead of hating him.

For the last 20 years of his life Ginsberg devoted much of his time to a Buddhist college, the Naropa Institute in Colorado, where he taught poetry. His principal guru Chogyam Trungpa, whose nirvanic state never quite overcame his earthly passions for women, cars and cannabis, died in 1987. But Ginsberg continued to defend him and his somewhat unconvincing habits — which included staffing his house with devotees rigged out as English butlers and teaching his students Oxonian English "so that they would be conscious of speech as a formulated aesthetic act like flower arranging".

Ginsberg suffered from diabetes and in later years from heart problems and hepatitis. In 1970 he contracted Bell's Palsy. The disease affected his eyes which were left, as *Time* magazine unkindly put it, "one wide and innocent, gazing at eternity; the other narrow and scrutinising, looking for its market share". Perhaps this was unfair. Ginsberg gave large proportions of his money to a charity he set up in aid of struggling poets. He lived in a run-down flat on New York's Lower East Side where he ate macrobiotically and meditated daily. He always resisted being lionised as poet. Yet today his work sells more copies than it did even in the Sixties.

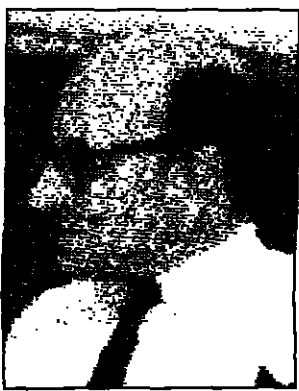
He leaves no survivors.

## SIR NORMAN ALEXANDER

Sir Norman Alexander, Commonwealth academic, died on March 26 aged 89. He was born in October 7, 1907.

A NATURAL innovator, Norman Alexander combined his skill as a scientist with great practical ingenuity. He would set his mind to any task from designing a magnetic station in Ibadan, Nigeria, which became one of the most important geophysical observatories at low latitudes, to building the bus shelter at Redisham, in Suffolk where he retired.

As a prisoner of war of the Japanese his resourcefulness proved invaluable to his fellow inmates, but he will be most remembered for his services to universities all over the world. He was Professor of Physics for many years at Raffles College in Singapore and later at Ibadan University. He helped with the planning and development of universities in the West Indies, the South Pacific and southern Africa.



Norman Stanley Alexander was born in Mangapiko, Te Awamutu, New Zealand, one of eight children in a family of second generation immigrant farmers. As a boy he had to work hard on the farm which had been claimed from unworked but traditionally Maori lands. But at school he showed himself an exceptional scholar, too, and his family pooled scant resources to pay for him to go on to study at Auckland University.

Graduating with a first in physics in 1927, he became a junior lecturer at Auckland. In 1930 he won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study in Cambridge, where he began to work for his PhD at the Cavendish laboratory, under Lord Rutherford, his compatriot. He learned from him the valuable art of conducting research with home-made equipment on a shoe-string budget. Completing his PhD in 1935 he went on to take up a post a year later as Professor of Physics at Raffles College, Singapore.

When the Japanese invaded Singapore in 1942, Alexander's wife and family had already fled. He, however, who had stayed working up until the last minutes developing X-Rays in Singapore General Hospital, was captured and interned in Changi Jail and, later, in the Sime Road internment camp. His fellow prisoners valued him for his sharp intellect and practical ingenuity, for his humour and

scrupulous fairness. He would discuss how to maintain the intellect under brutalising conditions and he and his companions — the majority of them professionals who had been exempted from National Service — would give lectures, each on his particular expertise. His physics lectures attracted a large following.

He built a salt evaporation plant from materials which he scrounged. He also soon got a mini-industrial plant running to provide the camp hospital with surgical spirit, produced by the fermentation of rice fungi.

After his release from the camp in 1945, he never liked to discuss his time there. He took up work again at Raffles College as soon as his health permitted. Students found they could resume their studies exactly where they had left off. In 1952 the college became the University of Malaya at Singapore. Alexander moved to Nigeria to take up a post as Professor of Physics at University College, Ibadan. Under his relaxed style of leadership, the physics department developed a broad range of geophysical research and his first PhD students went on to become distinguished geophysicists in the international academic community. Alexander also continued to exercise his considerable practical skills, whether in prising open the jammed university safe in the absence of a locksmith or milking the campus cow.

At the end of 1959 he briefly moved to Ankara, but soon returned to Nigeria again to become the first Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University in northern Nigeria. A post he held until 1966. He was knighted on his retirement.

For the next five years he became what he liked to call a "freelance vice-chancellor", involved in the setting up and planning of universities all over the world. In 1971 he was appointed to the governing body of the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Retiring to Redisham in Suffolk in 1972, he continued to indulge his passion for innovation whether repairing the church or making accurate fibre-glass Roman helmets for the children's nativity play. He later moved to Devonshire, where he enjoyed the upkeep of his house and garden and sometimes hampered visitors into the ground with his passion for logical argument. He could discuss anything from the finer points of Beethoven quartets through the rigging of Nelson's ships to new ways of exercising his wife's arm and leg after her stroke.

Norman Alexander married three times. His first wife Elizabeth Caldwell died in 1958. Soon after he married Constance Geary, a Professor of Education at Ibadan University. She, too, predeceased him. He is survived by his third wife Evelyn Clark together with a son and two daughters of his first marriage.

## LADY TEMPLER

Lady Templer, widow of Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, died on March 24 aged 92. She was born on July 23, 1904.

FOR many years Peggie Templer made a successful career as an officer's wife, resolutely in the background and supportive to a man who could at times be prickly. But she came into her own as "First Lady of Malaya" when Sir Gerald Templer served there as High Commissioner from 1952 to 1954.

Peggie Templer learnt to speak Malay, made broadcasts in that language, and was actively involved in every aspect of Malaya's welfare. As Templer's biographer wrote: "While Gerald had a soft and sympathetic heart under a hard and sometimes rough exterior, Peggie had a strong will and a determination to achieve what she wanted which would sometimes show through the very genuine sympathy and warmth which she constantly conveyed to all around her. They made a good team."

One of her lasting achievements was the Lady Templer Hospital on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. This began as a TB hospital, and is now a general one. She also set up an organisation similar to the Women's Institute, with the help of the Labour MP Margaret Herbinson, which inspired the Communists to proclaim: "We must be on guard against the wife of Templer and her so-called women's movement which aims at blurring the womenfolk into joining the Women's Institutes. This woman bandit is cunning."

Peggie Templer was a Devonian by birth twice over. Her father's family were merchants in Bideford in the 16th century and her grandfather was chairman of Devon County Council. Her mother, Beatrice Walrand, traced her ancestry to Devon in the 12th century. Ethel Marjorie (Peggie) Davie was the daughter of a Hove lawyer, Charles

Davie, who eventually settled in Plympton.

She was a bright, good looking and sweet-natured girl, with a quizzical owl-like curiosity in her glance. Her father took fright when her headmistress suggested she should sit the Oxford exam and took her from school, consigning her education to the hands of a governess.

Her early years were restless, and she was happiest when staying with her grandparents. It was on such a visit, at a bazaar when she was 16, that she met the young Gerald Templer, then an officer in the Royal Irish Fusiliers on leave from Egypt. She thought him "a rather stuck-up young man". But meeting him again in 1924 she revised her view and after a ten-day courtship they became engaged.

The prospective union was not wholly popular with her parents as the young soldier was without money or prospects and due to return to Egypt for two years. But their devotion proved strong and on September 8, 1926, they were married, the young officer a handsome figure in scarlet tunic and bearskin.

A peripatetic military life followed with postings to Cairo, Camberley, Salisbury, York, Palestine and other military centres in Britain. When Templer was raising a new cadre in Wales, Peggie bought a thousand vests and bicycled all over Ross rounding up helpers to sew different coloured flashes on the shoulders. She also ran a social club and the men that relaxed there were subsequently embarrassed to discover that she was the colonel's wife.

From 1941 to 1945 she settled with her daughter, Jane, at Woodford, near Amesbury, and became a lieutenant-colonel in the St John Ambulance Brigade, arranging escorts transferring the wounded to hospitals. This activity ceased when it transpired that the "colonel" was pregnant with her son, Miles.

Military life was followed by the Malayan interlude.



Sir Gerald Templer and Lady Templer take their leave of Malaya, 1954

Thereafter she was a supportive wife and hostess to the CIGS, contributing greatly to his success and diffusing occasional moments when the Field Marshal lost his cool. This found further outlets as his ceremonial role expanded and he became Colonel of the Blues and Royals, Governor of the Tower of London and chairman of the National Army Museum. She was also a tireless worker for the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf and for SSAFA.

One evening in 1967, Sir Gerald was walking the dog and had thrown his wife's cape over his shoulders. Possibly mistaken for her, he was set upon by thugs, who were surprised by the force with which the "Tiger of Malaya" repelled them.

Sir Gerald died in 1979. In widowhood Lady Templer could be seen shopping alone in the King's Road, Chelsea. Latterly she retired to the country. She is survived by a son and daughter.

## AN UNABASHED VICTORIAN

I would say a word on behalf of the Victorians whom humorous young Georgians believe to have been given over to all that was ugly and banal. Now there is not, there never was, any Victorian type, as having a common character of its own, either in literature or in art, in habits or in manners. The 64 years of Victoria's reign form a period of continued growth, of new ideas, of intense vitality and change, of attempts to realize new forms of intellectual and social evolution. As a very old man who has lived through it all, and well into this wondrous 20th century, I can recall a variety of efforts during the 19th century to set up new modes of life. Each succeeding generation, almost each decade, had its own ideal or style; and no one of them was quite old-fashioned or vulgar. The view that the Victorian type was conventional and dull, and that the new Georgian type is so spiritual, strikes us veterans as a droll bit of conceit. Much of the modern

## ON THIS DAY

April 7, 1927

The author claimed to have lived in four reigns, including that of William IV, "and a very bad time it was".

jesting about Victorian prudery is concealed impatience of a moral reformation after an evil time. Complaints of Queen Victoria's conventional stiffness may be narrowed down to this — that she idolized her husband, who as a man really was virtuous, able, and earnest. It would have been better if she had given less attention to politics and more attention to society. But her conjugal devotion is not so unworthy a character for a woman.

From the first of the many Royal Commissions, of which Albert was by

no means the mere figurehead, there grew up a succession of schools, movements, and thinkers who were trying new lines of grace, culture, and thought. Were Carlyle, Ruskin, Dickens, Thackeray, Arnold, Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Millais high priests of the conventional and the old-fashioned? And when Carlyle, Ruskin, and Morris were not the prophets they had been in their day, were Swinburne, Browning, and Hardy such slaves of the antiquated forms? If anyone was truly Victorian it was Tennyson; and if we do not now claim for him all that the Victorians offered at his shrine, no one calls him a formalist or a vulgarian. It is true that we do not now admire the Houses of Parliament, or the Albert Memorial, or the Crystal Palace as triumphs of Victorian art; but it is not easy to name any new Georgian buildings which are so plainly superior — not even the great Waterloo terminus. I remember the completion of the British Museum facade, and I doubt if the new County Council Hall will put it to shame...

FOR CHURCHGOERS AND NON-CHURCHGOERS ALIKE

## The Times

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Edited and introduced by Ruth Gledhill

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## NEWS

## Martin Bell stands against Hamilton

■ The broadcaster Martin Bell is to stand as an anti-corruption candidate against Neil Hamilton, the Conservative MP at the centre of the cash-for-questions controversy. The decision, made in agreement with the local Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates, meant that the pressure on Mr Hamilton to stand down was at breaking-point. Page 1

## Cook outflanks Tories on Europe

■ Robin Cook launched an audacious attempt to outflank the Government on the single currency by virtually ruling out membership for five years. The Shadow Foreign Secretary took the position that Tory Eurosceptics have been urging when he said that if Britain did not join in 1999 it was unlikely to do so in the course of the next Parliament. Page 1

Election 97: 7-11. Liberal Democratic manifesto: 40, 41

## National defiance

The Grand National will become a symbol of defiance when it is run today amid the tightest security operation at a sporting event in Britain. Thirty-six runners are expected for the rescheduled race at 5pm which will be shown live by the BBC. Pages 1, 3

## Aristocratic snubs

Britain is turning its back on its loyal servants in Ireland after the Ambassador to Dublin ordered the removal of Anglo-Irish aristocrats from the guest list. Page 2

## High earners penalty

High earners are to be fined more heavily under new guidelines for magistrates. An income of £30,000 a year is classified as high. £13,000 as average and £5,000 as low. Page 2

## Bishop for all

Clergy of five denominations in Wales have put their historic differences behind them to ask for an "ecumenical bishop". Page 4

## Battlefield fight

Robert Hardy, the actor and authority on medieval warfare, asked the Government to stop a property developer building on a battlefield. Page 4

## School trip casualty

A boy whose skull was fractured when a concrete block was thrown at his school coach in Belgium was recovering in intensive care. Page 5

## Ski resort 'is going downhill'

■ The world's largest ski company is involved in a bitter dispute with the founders of Vail, in Colorado, who claim its new owners are turning the resort — a favourite of Diana, Princess of Wales — into a downmarket theme park. Oldtimers say Vail Resorts, the new management company, is creating the mountain equivalent of Disneyland. Page 12

## Pet counselling

Vets are being increasingly called upon to counsel grief-stricken owners when their pets die. Page 5

## Atlanta threat

A group claiming responsibility for two explosions in Atlanta has issued a declaration of war against the United States Government. Page 12

## Hutu airlift

The United Nations began planning its biggest and most expensive humanitarian airlift to move more than 100,000 Hutus, including some mass killers, back to Rwanda. Page 13

## Wilson's outburst

Harold Wilson furiously berated his Commonwealth colleagues in talks on the future of Rhodesia in the 1960s and told them to stop treating Britain like "a bloody colony". Page 13

## Thatcher's role

Baroness Thatcher is poised to play a central role in the dramatic reforms planned for Russia in the final years of the Yeltsin presidency, according to the most powerful new figure in Kremlin politics. Page 14

## Spy is sued

A disillusioned former French spy who has written a book revealing the machinations of the French secret police is being sued by the Government for defamation. Page 14



Rubbish covers the Champs Elysées after the 21st Paris Marathon yesterday. John Kemboi of Kenya won the race

## BUSINESS

Privatisation: Advisers have been appointed to draw up plans to sell the Inland Revenue's offices and lease them back, potentially releasing £2.5 billion. Page 48

Yachting business: Chay Blyth is launching a plan to start a rolling international regatta that will tour the Far East and act as a platform for British exports. Page 48

Booming Britain: The British economy is now growing too fast for comfort, making higher interest rates a top priority for the next government. Page 48

Zantac: Glaxo, makers of the world's top-selling drug, have lost another round in their legal campaign to stop Canada's Novopharm from making a generic version. Page 48

## ARTS

Melvyn Bragg in Mexico: "To a North of England Anglican, all this weeping and idolatry ought to have been anathema. Instead it was impossible to resist being swept up in it". Page 18

An artistic good start: The new exhibition at the Tate Gallery looks at the drawings and watercolours behind Turner's great works. Page 18

Girls on top: Eternal, Britain's other platinum-selling girl band, gave the fans just what they came for in their gig at the Wembley Arena. Page 19

Man of the moment: Anthony Minghella's 1989 road play *Cigarettes and Chocolate* receives a well-timed stage revival in London. Page 19

## FEATURES

Time bomb: Vulcanologists predict a major eruption — but they cannot say where. Anjana Ahuja reports. Page 15

Nigel Hawkes: The understanding of human genes is growing fast, but the clinical applications of the new knowledge are proving much more elusive. Page 15

New life, new love: Jeremy Lowndes has not touched spirits since the night his first wife was battered to death at the couple's villa on the Costa del Sol and he leapt from a balcony, breaking both ankles. Page 16

Valerie Grove: A year in which Martin Amis's father died, also saw the birth of a daughter. It left him both "strengthened and emboldened". Page 17

## SPORT

Cup final: A goal apiece during extra time took the Middlesbrough-Leicester City Coca-Cola final to a replay on April 16. Page 27

Tennis: Britain failed to gain promotion from the Davis Cup Euro-African zone group one when Zimbabwe took a 3-1 lead. Page 26

Football: Liverpool missed the chance of going top of the Premiership when they lost 1-2 at home to Coventry City. Dion Dublin scored the winner. Page 29

Rugby union: Wasps, the Courage Club Championship leaders, salvaged a vital point when a try in the final minutes brought them a 25-25 draw with Bath. Page 32

Sailing: One of the oldest sailing records was broken when *Nicolette*, the 80ft Grand Mistral maxi skippered by Ludde Ingvald, set the fastest time for a monohull crossing of the Atlantic. Page 39

Snooker: Stephen Hendry, the world champion, said he had "simply run out of steam" when beaten by Mark Williams in the final of the British Open. Page 36

## LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 3, 28, 31, 41, 46. Bonus 33. Two tickets each won £4,963,025: 7 won £436,309 for 5 balls and the bonus; 520 won £3,670 for 5; 39,177 won £107 for 4 and 842,881 won £10 for 3.

## TV LISTINGS

Preview: Snapping up bargains in *The Antiques Show* (BBC2, 8.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond sees a comedy drama. Page 47

## OPINION

## Out of the race

Republicans are attempting to blackmail the Northern Ireland electorate and the next British Government into voting for them as the only route to peace. Page 21

## Policy and the world

Labour has now discovered areas where the Conservatives are vulnerable. Some are those where Labour has traditionally taken a high moral tone: overseas aid and human rights. Page 21

## Full cycle

The creed is simple: dumping rubbish in the ground is bad; burning it is worse; the only option is to recycle it. Economics makes nonsense of most of these. Page 21

## COLUMNS

## PETER RIDDELL

There is an air of make-believe about the Europe debate. John Major and Robin Cook seemed to be competing over who could add the more "verys" to "unlikely" in describing the chances of Britain entering a single currency in the next Parliament. Page 20

## PETER STOTHARD

It is a refrain that we have heard repeatedly over the past two weeks: why can the advisers not clear off and let the candidates be themselves. It is a hopeless refrain. It is hopeless because the art of democracy has been a science for as long as democracy has existed. Page 20

## OPPORTUNITIES

Allen Ginsberg, poet; Lady Templar, widow of the Field Marshall; Sir Norman Alexander, Commonwealth academic. Page 23

## REFLECT

Lords reform; Labour and unions; guardsmen in custody; IRA tactics; modern morality. Page 21

## MEMOIRS

As long as resorting to clandestine procedures in order to keep a watch on citizens is not subject to strict and independent controls, anything is possible. Francois Mitterrand had the merit, unwittingly of course, of reminding us of that. — France-Soir



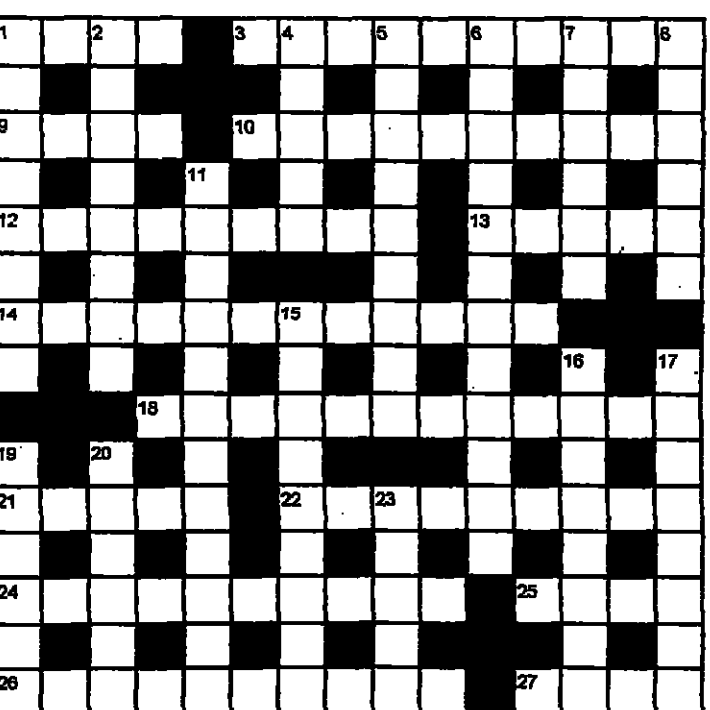
## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

■ FILM FACT  
Making a movie isn't the end of the story. Getting it shown is what really counts

■ COST CONSCIOUS  
British companies are getting better at reducing costs. A 12-page report gives the latest tips

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,447



- ACROSS
- Excellent form of transport, and well ventilated (4).
  - Fall in dark beside climbing shrub (10).
  - A number backing the alliance (4).
  - Songsters from single church visiting countries out East (10).
  - Brandy and game tucked into by old Venetian traveller (5,4).
  - 'Ow an 'orseman travelled to eat away? (5).
  - Surrogate stable-lad's limited accommodation (8-4).
  - Inclined to act rashly, threatening disturbing reports (7-5).
  - Firm embracing revolutionary beliefs (5).
  - Stall a conductor may demand? (9).
  - About liberal reform, a Parisian is not to be trusted (10).
- DOWN
- Sporty New Zealander, though not a flighty type (4).
  - Like a vile-sounding opera, of very little worth (10).
  - Very old artist retiring without a shilling (4).
  - Weapon appears in a catalogue, causing needless panic (8).
  - In America, the permanent way to coerce (8).
  - Highly inebriated bishop leaves for game (5).
  - Meeting in the station area (9).
  - Single condition from composer and poet holding up function (12).
  - A justification of sanity (6).
  - Acquiscent types originally serving in Asian republic (3-3).
  - Dog bounds over pass with rest (6,6).
  - Get over treat (9).
  - Organised group is imprisoned after appearing on trial for revolt (8).
  - Is his display instrumental in attracting a mate? (4-4).
  - Discharge account almost entirely (6).
  - Old servant in India — one who endures (6).
  - Bishop, possibly, covering the Italian city (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,446 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Jersey, 17C (63F); lowest day temp: Lough, 4C (39F); highest night temp: Prestwick, 10C (50F); highest sunrise: Cromer, Norfolk, 10.5hr.

## NEWSPAPERS RECYCLING

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## FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have variable cloud. The east and



25.00

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT



### CUP DRAW

Late equaliser gives Leicester final replay  
PAGE 27

### LOVE LOST

British hearts break in Davis Cup  
PAGE 26



### FINAL STING

Last-minute try lets Wasps scramble a point  
PAGE 32



### WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Sailing back to adventure on board Endeavour  
PAGE 38



# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 7 1997

## RUNNERS AND RIDERS RAISE COLOURS FOR DELAYED RACE

<b>ANTONIN</b> Jockey: Conor O'Dwyer Betting: 14-1	<b>AVRO ANSON</b> Jockey: Peter Niven Betting: 10-1	<b>BACK BAR</b> Jockey: Tommy Treacy Betting: 66-1	<b>BELMONT KING</b> Jockey: Richard Johnson Betting: 20-1	<b>BISHOPS HALL</b> Jockey: M Richards Betting: 50-1	<b>BUCKBOARD BOUNCE</b> Jockey: Paul Carberry Betting: 25-1	<b>CAMELOT KNIGHT</b> Jockey: Carl Llewellyn Betting: 100-1	<b>CELTIC ABBEY</b> Jockey: Brendan Powell Betting: 66-1	<b>DAKYN'S BOY</b> Jockey: Timmy Murphy Betting: 66-1	<b>DEXTRA DOVE</b> Jockey: Chris Maude Betting: 33-1
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## National pride at stake as Aintree reopens gates

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT



THE form book does not offer guidance on how bomb threats and the actions of terrorists affect the performance of a horse in a race, let alone the world's most famous steeplechase. But, as the expected 36 runners line up for the delayed Martell Grand National at Aintree today, selecting or backing a winner has never seemed more irrelevant.

After the calculated attempt on Saturday to disguise a treasured part of the nation's sporting heritage, only one result is of any significance: the race must be run. Racing, not the terrorists, must be the winner. Until now, sport, and the Turf in particular, has been protected from the horrors that have been inflicted on so many either side of the Irish Sea. There has been an unwritten belief that the unbreakable bond between the Irish and their horses has protected the noble creatures and those associated with them from terrorism. "Operation Aintree All Areas", barked out with scary urgency over the loudspeakers at 3:12pm, shattered that illusion once and for all.

As the 150th running of the Grand National finally gets under way, what

underfoot, has been trampled close to non-existence in places by tens of thousands of feet. A persistent drying wind will have eliminated any remaining ease and the ground, by Irish standards, will be fast.

Most important of all, how will the horses react to the upheaval of the past 48 hours? Routine is as important for them as for children. After being brought to peak fitness, their lives have been thrown into turmoil. Some were ferried to stables at Haydock, others were driven home; a few remained at Aintree.

If any have missed out on their normal diet or exercise pattern the effect on performance could be dramatic. "If the routine is broken, horses are likely to suffer," Nick Wingfield Digby, a leading Newmarket vet, said. "Depending on their temperament, some horses will get more buoyed up than others. But they will all respond differently."

All of which suggests the best bet is no bet but, if ever there was a time when backers must strike a wager, out of loyalty and support to the Grand National itself, it is today.

On Saturday, I recommended Antonin with confidence. Ideally, he would like easier ground and the delay has not helped his cause. However, I refuse to alter my recommendation. To do so would be to submit, in some small way, to the men who sabotaged the original race.

Each and every one of the 60,000 people who attended the Grand National on Saturday has a tale to tell; here is mine. After obtaining one of the last rooms in a hotel about 20 minutes' drive from Aintree on Saturday evening, four of us sat down for a late-night snack in a restaurant named after Winston Churchill and whose walls are adorned with Second World War pictures, posters and memorabilia.

Looking down upon us was a portrait of the great man along with an extract from one of his most famous speeches. "We shall go on to the end. We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. Britain will fight the menace of tyranny for years, and, if necessary, alone." More than half a century later, the bulldog spirit lives on. Especially at 5pm today.

Race goes ahead \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
Aintree chaos \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
Leading article \_\_\_\_\_ 21  
TV Action Replay \_\_\_\_\_ 26  
Richard Dawkins \_\_\_\_\_ 34  
Rob Hughes \_\_\_\_\_ 35

should one expect? With no car-parking allowed at Aintree, the stands may be eerily empty when the starting tapes rise shortly after 5pm. And what of the course over which the field must race? An abiding memory of Saturday afternoon was the army of spectators who claimed their personal memento of the big day by removing pieces of birch from the fences and proceeded to carry them around in triumph.

For a few moments, it appeared as though Macbeth was being enacted, with a forest moving steadily towards Anchor Bridge, which straddles the Leeds-Liverpool canal and was the escape route for many on Saturday.

Of equal concern is the state of the ground — and not just its relative firmness or softness. All kinds of debris was deposited on the track by the departing army, including bottles deliberately broken by those claiming to be animal lovers and calling themselves animal rights protesters. Somehow, every last sliver of glass, every bottle and can, must be cleared up.

Then there is the going itself. An exceptionally lush covering of grass, which offered some protection to horses who like softer conditions



Dextra Dove, a Grand National runner, is exercised at Haydock yesterday. Photograph: Peter Nicholls

### DON'T LIGHT UP



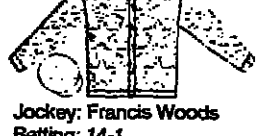
Jockey: Robert Thornton  
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### EVANGELICA



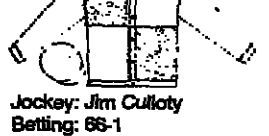
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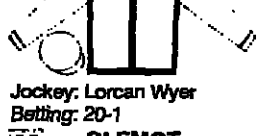
Jockey: Francis Woods  
Betting: 14-1

### FULL OF OATS



Jockey: Jim Culloty  
Betting: 66-1

### GENERAL WOLFE



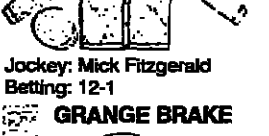
Jockey: Lorcan Wyer  
Betting: 20-1

### GLEMOT



Jockey: Simon McNeill  
Betting: 66-1

### GO BALLISTIC



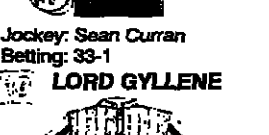
Jockey: Mick Fitzgerald  
Betting: 12-1

### GRANGE BRAKE



Jockey: David Walsh  
Betting: 66-1

### KILLESHEIN



Jockey: Sean Curran  
Betting: 33-1

### LORD GYLLENE



Jockey: Tony Dobbin  
Betting: 10-1

### LO STREGONE



Jockey: Graham Bradley  
Betting: 14-1

<b>PINK GIN</b> Jockey: Guy Upton Betting: 100-1	<b>OVER THE STREAM</b> Jockey: Adie Smith Betting: 100-1	<b>NUAFFE</b> Jockey: Terry Mitchell Betting: 66-1	<b>NORTHERN HIDE</b> Jockey: Paul Holley Betting: 40-1	<b>NEW CO</b> Jockey: David Casey Betting: 40-1	<b>NAHTHEN LAD</b> Jockey: Jason Titley Betting: 18-1	<b>MUGONI BEACH</b> Jockey: Jamie Evans Betting: 66-1	<b>MASTER OATS</b> Jockey: Norman Williamson Betting: 33-1	<b>MASTER BOSTON</b> Jockey: [Name] Betting: 100-1
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# McGrath shines when the going gets tough

Crowd trouble, pitch invasions, animal rights demonstrations... BBC Sport has a long and frustrating record of grandly ignoring them all, of blithely pretending that the news story under their nose is not there. But the evacuation of 70,000 people attending one of the biggest sporting events of the year, not even the BBC could ignore that.

Events started to depart from the planned programme soon after the cameras arrived in the paddock. We at home had just endured the most extraordinary musical massacre of the runners and riders (a tune that might have been written by Eric Coates, complete with whip-cracks and the occasional whinny) and were just getting over the shock of discovering that neither Richard Pitman nor Peter

Scudamore knew what the word "dour" meant. That brief exchange was to be the last of the afternoon's fun.

For as the cameras followed Lord Gyllene around the ring, Pitman first observed how good it was to see the crowd packed 20 deep around the paddock, then paused and added something to the effect that such a big crowd meant they probably could not see what was going on elsewhere. As 12 million once-a-year punters thought "What?" he explained: "I do believe that there are other things happening. In fact, they're evacuating the County Stand."

Two people emerged with credit from the confusion that followed. The first was "Aussie" Jim McGrath, whose simple, calm and straightforward description of events could provide a model for any sports



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

commentator who finds him or herself in a similar situation. Don't jump to conclusions, don't set yourself up as judge and jury and if you don't know what's going on — shut up. McGrath stuck to what he saw, knew or felt and did an excellent job.

But doing every bit as good a job was Malcolm Kemp, who was directing his first National for the BBC. We never got to see the extra cameras or the new angles that he had promised us for the race itself, but we did see

how well he adapted to the unexpected turn of events. Cameras were quickly turned through 180 degrees to show what was going on and when even the positions themselves had to be evacuated, the cameras were left locked off but running. The deserted paddock was one of the enduring images of the day.

Kemp, however, also showed a newsman's desire to show it as it is rather than as cliché dictates it should be. While convention called for the evacuation to be "orderly

and well-mannered", the cameras picked out an over-excited party of race-goers happily destroying one of the fences. Such honesty was as refreshing as it was unexpected. I hope he is still around when the streaking season starts.

Des Lynam, however, was having a less happy time. Long before he was asked to leave the course live on air, it had been clear that this was not one of his better days. Nothing quite worked for him... even to the extent of having to play his own straight man with Mick Fitzgerald, the winning jockey last year. "How did you describe winning, Mick?" Mick knew, but apparently wasn't saying. Better than sex, wasn't it? "Well, I hope you've been proven wrong in the interim." I suppose it was worth the wait.

That seemed to set the

pattern for the afternoon. Jenny Pitman got the better of him by chiding him to hurry up and get married. "Thanks for bringing that close to the public, Jenny," Lynam replied, just a little too grumpily for it to be funny. An hour later, when his old, and now tearful, friend needed cheering up, he was no help at all.

Eventually, total evacuation forced him to hand back to a startled-looking Gary Lineker, who suddenly found himself in charge of a crisis. Given his lack of experience, Lineker didn't make a bad job of linking a lot of rough and far-from-ready match reports, but we were still left with the distinct impression that Grandstand's contingency planning could do with a bit of updating. Pele's favourite footballers — how long had that been around?

TENNIS: COMFORTABLE VICTORY FOR ZIMBABWE ENDS HOPES OF IMMINENT DAVIS CUP PROMOTION

## Black puts British revival into perspective

By ALIX RAMSAY

SO, IT is to the Ukraine in July — the next stage in the eagerly awaited rejuvenation of men's tennis in Great Britain. After Jamie Delgado was battered into submission 6-0, 6-0, 6-2 by Byron Black, Zimbabwe took an unassailable 3-1 lead over Britain to win the second-round tie in the Davis Cup Euro-African zone group one at Crystal Palace.

All Britain's thoughts of progress and promotion have been put to one side and David Lloyd must now take his squad to Kiev in the hope of staying put.

After the heroics of Andrew Richardson on Friday, who blasted his way past the elder Black brother, the omens had not looked good on Saturday, when Wayne and Byron Black defeated Mark Petchey and Neil Broad in the doubles. Leaving Britain 2-1 down, it left far too much for the young Delgado to do yesterday.

Facing the world No 46, and a man who has collected nearly \$3 million in prize-money in his six years on the ATP Tour, Delgado was stymied. He had no idea what to do next as his first service deserted him and every shot he tried headed for the backstop or the tram lines. Although he claimed he had not been nervous before the start, the nerves started jangling as soon as he got to work.

As the games whistled by, and Delgado was still not on the score sheet, he looked like a man who desperately wanted to be somewhere else. When finally he hit a backhand winner at the end of the second set, he raised his arms to acknowledge the applause of the enthusiastic, if

sympathetic, crowd. When he won his first game, he had the crowd whipped to a frenzy with sheer relief.

David Lloyd, the Britain captain, was resigned to his team's fate and understanding of Delgado's situation. He remembered his own days as a Davis Cup player, when the nerves took over. "It's the only time I've ever frozen and I still don't know why," he said. "Jamie has got to work out what happened today and learn how to stop it happening again."

What Lloyd has learnt is that, even with the best pair of players Britain has had to its name in many a long year, luck still plays its part in the Davis Cup. "We will go forward," he said, "but things were against us from the start. To lose both top players is a blow, a hell of a blow. I thought, when Tim and Greg were fit, that this was a great draw for us. But, for Jamie and Andrew, it was a great opportunity to play Davis Cup at a young age and I think Andrew played well beyond anybody's expectations."

Unfortunately, what the weekend's matches did prove was that, without Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, British tennis is still struggling. Take away the top names and Lloyd has to fall back on players whose immediate ambitions lie in breaking into the top 200 in the world.

Yesterday Andrew Richardson put up another valiant struggle but lost the final and dead rubber 6-3, 6-7, 7-6 to Wayne Black.

Compared with Zimbabwe, who pick their team from one family, Britain would appear



Delgado plays a backhand during his straight-sets defeat by Byron Black at Crystal Palace yesterday

to have an abundance of riches. Zimbabwe have just a handful of serious competitive players, of whom three are on the world ranking list. They have little money but a great deal of enthusiasm and, as they go forward to Thursday's draw for the world group

qualifying round, everyone is hoping for a big name and a home tie to spread the word about Zimbabwe tennis.

Black admitted that the national team lacked depth. "This has to be one of our best wins," he said. "I have been thinking about this tie for

months and I was expecting to play Henman and Rusedski, which would have made it a lot tougher." As for Britain, it is back to the drawing board for the moment. The trip to the Ukraine comes immediately after Wimbledon, and four weeks of grass-court biff and

bash. Put up against Andrei Medvedev and his teammates, they face the prospect of a slow clay court — not the favoured surface of any British man. Failure there means another tie against either Hungary or Belgium to avoid relegation.

## Zimbabwe run out of opportunities

ZIMBABWE threw away a golden chance of beating Pakistan when four of their batsmen fell to needless run-outs in their Sharjah Cup match yesterday. In the end, Pakistan were easy victors by 93 runs after Zimbabwe were all out for 94. Disciplined bowling by Zimbabwe had seen Pakistan dismissed for 187 in their allotment of 50 overs.

Zimbabwe reached 39 without loss but their openers, Craig Wishart (29) and Grant Flower (14), were both run out and only Andy Flower, with an unbeaten 21, reached double figures.

A sudden outfield again delayed the start of the fourth Test between West Indies and India in Antigua, on the third day yesterday. Heavy rain had caused the opening two days of the match to be abandoned.

## Tanner justifies call-up

CYCLING: John Tanner, Britain's top rider in the recent Tour of Langkawi and named for the Dutch Olympia Tour next month, confirmed the selectors' faith in him by winning the 106-mile Cycling Weekly international grand prix yesterday on a Beaconsfield-based circuit. The Sheffield Controlware rider was never far from the head of affairs in a race that developed into a wearing-down process on the hilly course. With some 70 miles covered, the main pack of 100 split, and then Tanner eventually broke clear with Matthew Stephens before producing a late burst, to which Stephens was unable to respond.

## Kemboi reigns in Paris

ATHLETICS: John Kemboi, right of Kenya, moved away from Luckez Swartbooi, of Namibia, in the final four miles to win the Paris Marathon yesterday. Kemboi's time of 2hr 10min 14sec was the third best in the 21-year history of the race. Swartbooi, second in the marathon at the 1993 world championships, was runner-up, about a minute and 13 seconds behind.



## Launceston take title

TABLE TENNIS: Launceston landed the British League premier division title on their home tables last night when they held the Sussex club, Horsham, to a thrilling 7-7 draw, despite losing Paul Giles, their No 1, with kidney problems. Chris Sladden, from Southend, who is studying mathematics at Essex University, played precision table tennis to defeat the top three Sussex men and remain unbeaten.

## Victory in trials

ROWING: Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent confirmed their status as Great Britain's top pair during trials in Nottingham over the weekend. They were followed home by James Cracknell and Rob Thatcher, the British double scull in Atlanta. Third place was filled by Tim Foster, the Oxford stroke in the Boat Race a week earlier, and Rupert Obholzer.

## Reeder makes news

GYMNASTICS: Great Britain's women gymnasts achieved success against Russia when Annika Reeder, of Basildon, and Melissa Wilcox, from Bristol, won the gold and silver medals in the floor exercises final in an international match in Glasgow on Saturday. Wilcox also took silver in the beam finals and was placed sixth in the individual overall competition. The Russians won the team event.

## Sorensen surges home

CYCLING: Rolf Sorensen, right, of Denmark, won the Tour of Flanders World Cup race in Meerbeke, Belgium, yesterday, ahead of Frederic Moncassin, of France, and Franco Ballerini, of Italy. Sorensen, 31, covered the 256 kilometres in 6 hours and 41 seconds. World champion Johan Museeuw, of Belgium, saw his hopes of victory ended by mechanical problems.



## Funnell edges out Tait

EQUESTRIANISM: Pippa Funnell won a close battle with Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, in the Dines Hall Horse Trials at Halstead. Funnell, on Rainbow Magic, finished with 43 points for a one-point win over Tait, the New Zealander, riding Chesterfield in one of the Pedigree Chum series warm-ups for the Badminton three-day event next month.

## Mellor's wait rewarded

LACROSSE: After losing the Flags final for the past three seasons, Mellor were at last triumphant, beating Heaton Mersey 13-10 in the Daily Telegraph Senior Flags Final at Didsbury yesterday. But it was touch-and-go with the scores tied at 10-10 at full time. In eight minutes of extra time, Jon Lowe scored twice and Andy Bickerton once to give Mellor their victory.

### BOWLS

## Eight and out for hot shots

NO ONE expects the extravagance of a maximum count of eight shots in pairs of fours to happen in the national finals. Defence should be tighter when there are international players on the rink, and a count of eight — where one side finishes with all of their eight bowls closer to the jack than the opposition's — is rarely seen.

Yesterday, however, at Melton Mowbray, Reading Whiteknights grabbed a remarkable lifeline when they hit the jackpot against Kingshorpe, skipped by Mick Sharpe.

Whiteknights, the 1995 champions, were trailing, 7-19, after 14 ends of their quarter-final, when Sharpe, attempting to remove shots, removed his own team's best efforts, and gave Garry Stacey, the Whiteknights skip, the chance to add the eighth shot with his last bowl.

Only four shots separated the sides at 19-15 but a similar story, this time involving a reversal of roles, on the 16th end, saw Stacey take out Whiteknights' nearest bowl to concede six.

Kingshorpe, who went on to win 30-16, now meet Stanley in the semi-final, while Cyphers, the holders, take on Cumbria.

### CRICKET: KENYA CAPTAIN ODUMBE THE STUMBLING BLOCK IN RAIN-INTERRUPTED ICC TROPHY SEMI-FINAL

## Tough task for Ireland in World Cup quest

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN KUALA LUMPUR

IRELAND'S cricketers went to bed in Kuala Lumpur last night knowing they must score 216 from 50 overs to beat Kenya and take a place in the 1999 World Cup finals.

The first ICC Trophy semi-final was delayed by overnight rain and a sodden outfield, but dedicated mopping-up and a sensible flexibility towards the playing conditions allowed Kenya to complete an innings

of 215 for eight. Maurice Odumbe, the Kenya captain, lifted his side to what should prove a formidable total with a second 67 off 71 balls, his strident half-century against Ireland in the tournament.

Ireland won the toss and, with the outfield still wet enough to help stem the boundaries, had little hesitation in putting Kenya in. Mark Patterson, who will play for Surrey this summer, was again wayward and expensive, although he did tempt Sandeep Gupta to pull to

backward square leg to end an opening stand of 35.

A brief stoppage for rain after 16 overs gave Mike Hendrick, the Ireland coach, a chance to regroup and a switch to an all-spin attack quickly checked Kenya on the resumption. Veteran Garfield Harrison bowled three maiden overs, but Neil Doak made a more important contribution by bowling Asif Karim and Steve Tikolo within three deliveries, the latter playing on via thigh pad and elbow.

Odumbe then joined Kenny

Orieno and, having scored 99 not out when the teams met in the opening round, he was the major contributor in a fifth-wicket partnership of 75. Orieno was caught by Harrison running around the mid-wicket boundary for 51, one of four excellent catches by Ireland, and Thomas Oduyo departed two balls later when Andy Patterson dived forward to take a leading edge at backward point.

To cap a fine fielding display by Ireland, Andy, the younger of the Patterson

brothers, then plucked out middle stump with a throw from long-off with Odumbe a few inches short of his ground. By that stage it was probably too late for Ireland, who had seen the Kenya captain start a late assault.

Ireland walked off knowing they could not have performed much better, but they will probably have to settle for the third-place play-off against Scotland or Bangladesh on Thursday.

SCORE: Kenya 215-8 (50 overs) (M Odumbe 67, K Orieno 99, M Oduyo 4-51) v Ireland

### HOCKEY: READING LIFT MEN'S TITLE BUT SLOUGH'S LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE DREAM IS DASHED

## Pearn puts paid to Cannock Ipswich reap sweet revenge

READING'S ambition to win the premier division title in the National League was fulfilled after a 4-1 home win against Cannock yesterday, although success was not as easy as the scoreline suggests. (Sydney Friskin writes) Cannock had as much of the play in the first half, but failed to capitalise on three short corners.

The temporary suspension of Kalbir Takher was a setback for Cannock and Reading forged ahead in the 23rd minute. A free hit by Hoskin was helped along by Briscoe and Grant Edwards was on hand to score.

Jon Wyatt converted a penalty stroke five minutes before half-time and Pearn consolidated Reading's position with another goal shortly after the resumption of play. Paul Edwards

then converted a short corner in the 42nd minute to enable Cannock to climb back into the game but, although Wyatt, the Reading captain, was temporarily suspended, Cannock could not add to their score. Eventually, Sanders set up Pearn to score Reading's fourth goal in the last minute.

With Reading home and dry, an 8-3 victory against Canterbury, at Chiswick, was of little consequence to Teddington, who finished runners-up. A 2-2 draw with Hounslow was not enough to save Surbiton from relegation and they will accompany Havant to the first division. Edgbaston and City of Portsmouth will fight for the right to stay in the first division in the inter-league play-offs later this month.

A GOAL in each half by Sarah Bamfield, the Ipswich striker, destroyed Slough's hopes of a league and cup double when the Suffolk side avenged the 2-1 league defeat on Saturday with a convincing 4-2 victory in the sixth round of the AEWHA Cup yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). Slough, who overtook Ipswich at the head of the Premiership after Karen Brown struck twice in the second half to steer them home, must now win their final game against Hightown to make sure of capturing their fifth title.

Their confident and dominant second-half display at Ipswich gave Slough every reason to expect another victory yesterday, but they came up against a team determined to have

something to show for their efforts at the end of the season.

Leisa King gave Ipswich an early lead, and although Mandy Nicholls and Brown replied to put Slough 2-1 up, Kirsten Spencer levelled from a sixteenth-minute penalty corner, and Bamfield then struck twice to put the holders into the semi-finals.

Two goals by Claire Ferguson steered Doncaster to a 4-1 victory over Sutton Coldfield, and Clifton and Hightown also booked their places in the last four with wins over teams from lower divisions. But, despite their good cup runs, Doncaster and Hightown still face the threat of relegation, along with Leicester and Trojans, as the league campaign enters the final run-in.

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Middlesbrough flair effectively stifled by honest endeavour and defensive resistance

# Leicester draw on survival instinct

Leicester City ..... 1  
Middlesbrough ..... 1

(AFTER EXTRA TIME)  
BY OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY came to Wembley yesterday, the Middlesbrough and Leicester City fans, hoping and fearing in turn that they were about to witness the grace and guile of a fine player winning the Coca-Cola Cup for the team from the North-East. They were expecting Juninho to monopolise the game with his daring runs and his passing and moving. Instead, they were left to witness a different kind of beauty.

For two hours of a largely drab game devoid of chances and so lacking in inspiration the neither team managed a shot on target in the first half, the 76,000 fans who swarmed down the M1 ignoring predictions of bomb scares at the ground watched an unheralded Swedish midfielder strike a blow for the ordinary across the world.

For those 120 minutes, Pontus Kaamark played Salieri to Juninho's Mozart, shadowing him all over the pitch. Wherever the diminutive Brazilian took him,

United humbled ..... 28  
Dublin strikes ..... 29  
Bolton promoted ..... 31

Kaamark followed, stifling, blocking, tackling, pushing, harrying, so that Juninho was thrown out of his stride.

Barring one rash challenge in the 34th minute, which earned him a booking from Martin Bodenham, the referee, the timing of the Swede's interventions was impeccable. In the 61st minute, he prevented his side going a goal down by glancing away a Ravanelli cross just as Juninho was about to nod it into the empty goal. By the end of normal time, the Brazilian was a picture of unhappiness, so frustrated that he was booked for dissent.

For some, perhaps, there is only ugliness in the neutralising of such a sublime talent, but there is nobility, too, in doing a job well and succeeding in the task even if, on this performance, at least, the Swede did not appear to have a creative bone in his body.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, may be criticised for trying to strangle a player of Juninho's ability but, ultimately, the onus lay on the Brazilian to shake his marker off. In the last meeting between these two clubs, at Filbert Street, Juninho ran the show for the first half, bamboozling Leicester so completely that he had put the game



Robson, the manager, and the Middlesbrough bench show their frustration at another near miss at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Raoul Dixon

out of their reach by half-time. O'Neill learnt his lesson, changed his tactics and nullified the threat.

Yesterday, Juninho managed to escape his shackles just once, when 94 minutes had already elapsed. He received the ball from Ravanelli on the edge of the area and wriggled past Kaamark deep in the crowded penalty area. The attention was so tight that the ball ran away from him, but his dribble had caused such panic in the Leicester defence that Lennon could only poke the ball back to Ravanelli, who lashed an unstoppable shot into the back of the net.

At last, after all their trials and tribulations this season, the docking of points for the postponement of their match at Blackburn Rovers last December, the dismay caused by Emerson's leaves of absence and Ravanelli's occasional carping on trips to Italy, it seemed that everything would be worth it. The courageous reliance of their manager, Bryan Robson, on style over substance seemed to have paid off. But, as news filtered through from Anfield that Coventry City had beaten Liverpool and so pushed Middlesbrough back into the FA Carling Premiership's bottom three,

Middlesbrough relaxed a little, and Leicester forced their way back into the match.

Ravanelli had already missed a fine chance to open the scoring two minutes into extra time when he stabbed a curling cross from Beck straight into the arms of Keller. Earlier, in one of the game's only clear-cut chances of normal time, the Italy striker had seen his fine glancing header from Grayson's cross rebound to safety off a post. Leicester, who had offered little but defensive resistance and had not created a chance all afternoon, seemed incapable of capitalising on

their reprieve, but their spirit, as typified by Kaamark, saved them as the game entered the final furlong.

Three minutes from the end of extra time, with the Middlesbrough supporters chanting victory songs, Robins retrieved a blocked cross on the right-hand edge of the Middlesbrough penalty area and tried again. This time, his centre was headed back in by Walsh and then nodded on to the bar by Heskey. Claridge poked the ball back towards the goal line and Heskey reacted quickest and strongest to force the ball into the net.

The Middlesbrough players stared at the ground in disbelief when the final whistle blew and Juninho, in particular, seemed inconsolable. Wrapped in a Brazil flag, he did not join in Middlesbrough's half-hearted lap of honour but stood forlornly in the centre circle instead. A week on Wednesday, when the teams meet again at Hillsborough for the replay, Kaamark will be waiting for him.

## Extra mile ordered on long march towards cup honour



Ravanelli: dangerous

When you have waited 122 years to win a cup of any significance, as Middlesbrough have, or only 113 years, like Leicester, another ten days is the merest shift of sand. One hopes the crowd at Hillsborough on Wednesday week sees a better match than this. On a bright afternoon made for football the players were unable to provide very much to savour.

In the case of these clubs a bit of perspective helps. When Middlesbrough was founded in 1875 Gladstone was trying to pacify Ireland, and Wagner was completing the score of *Götterdämmerung*. Leicester's foundation in 1894 was overshadowed by news of Gordon fighting off the Mah-

dist hordes in Khartoum. Their winning of the old League Cup in 1964 can be discounted. The final was played over two legs in those days, and regarded as an amusement for those below the salt.

Leicester were the relieved ones last night after Heskey scrambled a goal with two minutes left when there were more bodies on the goal line than in a Scottish taxi. The goal served as a useful commentary on the quality of the match, for there was precious little to enjoy by way of craft. Leicester had the best player in Parker, and Middlesbrough the most dangerous in Ravanelli, but apart from the goals there were few chances at either end.

### Michael Henderson says replay crowd deserves better than yesterday's fare

It was a rum old day all round. First of all, to keep the crowd engaged or amused, there was a pick-up match between teams of low-grade "celebrities" who could barely raise a gallop. This, surely, is an abuse of Wembley. Once upon a time you had to earn the right to play there.

Then there was a particularly feeble display of choreographed nonsense on the field, set to deafening pop music for the benefit of Sky Television's live coverage. So by the time the teams emerged, to the firing of fireworks, the crowd had been

whipped into the sort of stage-managed frenzy Orwell described in 1984. Had nobody considered that, with Leicester making their first cup final appearance since 1969, and Middlesbrough at Wembley for the first time, the fans might be sufficiently excited without having to endure this emotional manipulation?

For the first half there was at least the prospect of an interesting match. Leicester are a limited team but in those opening minutes they passed the ball quickly and accurately, and quite showed up their

expensively-assembled opponents. Parker settled immediately into the match, and moreover kept it up throughout the two hours, but neither he nor Lennon could really stir Claridge or Heskey into anything more threatening than nuisance value.

On their team spirit alone Leicester have already travelled far. Most neutrals, one feels, would like them to win the replay, if only for the way Martin O'Neill has confounded all expectations by keeping their heads above water in a season that was always going to be difficult. Players like Walsh and Whitlow have been around a long time, without having much to show for it. Now, if they keep their heads, they might.

For Middlesbrough it turned out to be the worst of days. They were denied victory when they thought they had done enough to win, and they left the field to hear that Coventry's win at Anfield had sent them back into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership.

At the end Emerson, that gifted midfielder, was busy spewing out his disenchantment to anybody who would listen.

One hopes that Leicester prevail but to do so they will have to keep as tight a watch as they did yesterday on Juninho, a player who has genuinely served the club. Ravanelli, of course, always needs watching. But there is no doubt they can do it.

### GOLF

## Olazabal closes on leaders

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW ORLEANS

THE extraordinary form that Jose Maria Olazabal has demonstrated since he returned from his enforced absence from tournament golf two months ago continued in the delayed third round of the Freeport McDermott Classic yesterday.

Olazabal, having got up at 4.45am, birdied two of his remaining nine holes for a 67. He was ten under par after three rounds. Brad Faxon, the American Ryder Cup player, was 13 under and Kirk Triplett, a playing partner of Olazabal's, 12 under, with Scott McCarron, the defending champion, 11 under. A 68 took Jesper Parnevik to seven under par. Such has been Olazabal's form here that victory, in only his fourth tournament since his comeback, was a distinct possibility.

The heavy rain that had moved from Texas into Louisiana and limited play to less than three hours on Saturday had gone, to be replaced by a morning of startling brilliance and clear skies. Even so, having to play 27 holes in a day was not what Olazabal wanted. Playing well was proof that his recovery from suspected rheumatoid arthri-

tis continues, however, and he accepted it with a shrug of his shoulders. "I would prefer to play only 18," he said before he began his final round. "Yesterday was a long day and today is a long day."

Though Olazabal's all-round play remained good, his driving, which has always been his Achilles' heel, was erratic. He missed one fairway with his driver in his outward half on Saturday and four more with the same club yesterday. English Turn is a punishing test of golf with greens that are hard to reach and flags that are not easy to get at from many parts of the greens. "I was hitting it left and right from the tee, everywhere except down the middle," Olazabal said.

The rest of his game was as sharp as a pin, particularly his putting. When Olazabal putts well, as he has been here, his ball rolls across the green more smoothly than most other players'. From the moment it leaves the putter face it is possible to see that it has been truly struck, regardless of whether it goes into the hole. Olazabal's birdie on the long 2nd came after he had driven into a bunker from the tee and put his second into a

greenside bunker. Bunkers for him are not obstacles. His third stroke ended four feet away. He sank an eight-foot putt to save his par on the 6th and then, on the 8th, he rolled in a 35-footer that looked certain to end near the hole from the moment he struck it. From the moment that he walked, in that distinctive way of his, towards the tee at Dubai to play the opening stroke of his comeback, Olazabal has been calm and low-key. It is as if the experience he has gone through have matured him and made him less excitable. "I get less worked up than I used to," he admitted. "I do not get so cross with myself."

It also means that, publicly at least, his expectations are low. He said that he was surprised to win his third event, the Turespafia Masters, and that he did not expect to do very well here. This, at least, has to be taken with a pinch of salt. As he prepared to play the sixteenth round of his comeback he was 51 under par. Only two of those rounds had been over par. If this is what he meant when he said he did not expect to do well, goodness knows what will happen when he says he does.

### NETBALL

## A conflict of interests for promising Percy

BEDFORD and Canterbury were the places to be for England's elite players this weekend. Liz Broomhead's senior international squad joined their Under-21 counterparts for a training session at Kent University, while the Under-18s and Under-16s enjoyed a get-together at Bedford's De Montfort University (a Special Correspondent writes).

In the days when De Montfort University was a straightforward teacher training college, many of today's Under-16s were at primary school but now many face a conflict of interests: netball or GCSEs.

Take Vicky Percy, the England Under-16 captain. She had to travel all the way to Bedford from her home in Newcastle to attend the training session.

Percy belongs to Tyneside's Wallsend netball club which is threatening to prove a conveyor-belt of talent comparable to the Wallsend boys' football club which has produced a stream of leading players, including Peter Beardsley. But with GCSEs impending and the netball season approaching a climax, Percy's loyalties are understandably

torn. "I have to concentrate on my exam work, especially French," she said. "I want to go to sixth form college next year but, of course, I will carry on playing netball."

"It's excellent being part of a team and really good fun travelling around. In 1996 there was a big end-of-year climax with an Under-16 tour of Australia. This year there is no tour, only training sessions. Australia was great; they play a much more physical game than us but once we adjusted to their style we won everything."

If Percy continues winning and eventually succeeds Fiona Murtagh, the England senior captain, the days when exams had to be juggled with circuit training will seem a breeze. Murtagh gets up at 6.30am to travel from Essex to work as a London personnel officer all week, training every evening except Friday; Saturdays see her playing while Sundays are spent training or coaching.

However, by the time Percy reaches her twenties, netball might have emulated rugby union and turned professional. With lottery assistance, England's seniors should soon be eligible for individual grants of up to £28,000 a year.

### SQUASH

## Australian wins her fifth British Open title

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

MICHELLE MARTIN, 29, from Australia, returned to the top of the women's game in Cardiff yesterday when she defeated her top-seeded compatriot, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the world champion, 9-5, 9-10, 9-5, 9-5 in the 66-minute final of the Leekes British Open Championship.

It was Martin's fifth successive win in the game's greatest tournament and delivered her promise of "setting the record straight" after losing the world title and No 1 spot to the 28-year-old Fitz-Gerald last year.

The defending champion proved the stronger at the end of each game and might have won in straight games had her fightback from 5-8 to 9-8 in the second not been stopped by a scintillating forehand by Fitz-Gerald at full stretch.

"This is more important than my first British Open win after losing the world title," Martin declared joyfully, after the best match of the tournament.

The home interest was very much alive in the men's final scheduled for late last night. Peter Nicol's progress from repeatedly injured Jansher Khan, the defending champion, at the Wales National Ice Rink yesterday, gathered further gloss on Saturday when, on his 24th birthday, he became the first Scottish finalist for more than 33 years. "Just reaching the British

Cardiff results ..... 37

Open final is the greatest moment of my individual career," the left-hander from Inverurie said. For five years, Nicol had not survived the first round.

"I had come to dread the British Open," Nicol said after defeating the 29-year-old second-seeded Australian, Rodney Eyles, 5-15, 15-12, 17-14, 15-2, in a semi-final that lasted 76 minutes. "Now I am really enjoying it and thinking it could easily become my favourite tournament."

The manner of Nicol's advance to the final, and the opportunity of becoming the first British winner since Jonah Barrington defeated Gogi Alaudin at Abbeydale in 1973, would please any player.

Since then Geoff Hunt, of Australia, has taken eight titles, Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, ten in a row, and Jansher Khan five in seven final appearances.

The 27-year-old Pakistani's approach to a sixth title was looking effortless until he ran into Ahmed Barada, 19, the seventh-seeded Egyptian, who stopped Australia's tired giantkiller, Dan Jenson, in a quarter-final that lasted just over 90 minutes.

Barada ran a rough, tough and talented assault against the defending champion, losing 13-15, 15-8, 15-8, 15-4, in 65 minutes that Jansher acknowledged may be a foretaste of what is to come. Eyles may now realise that his problems have already arrived in the shape of Nicol.

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## FOOTBALL

# Derby's day as United fail to pay attention

Manchester United ..... 2  
Derby County ..... 3

By PETER BALL

"ANY mistakes now, and you cut your own throat," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said on Friday afternoon. Twenty-four hours later, with a bit of help from Derby County, his team proceeded to do just that.

The result, deservedly, took Derby a huge step towards FA Carling Premiership survival, for their contribution to an astonishing, and ultimately thrilling, game was immense. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, won a tactical battle, man-marking everywhere. He played with two strikers wide to stop the United full backs, and his side produced all the unlikely heroes, from Paulo Wanchope, a Costa Rican who scored on his debut, to the unsung Paul Trollope.

On transfer deadline day,



Schmeichel: late error

Trollope almost joined Chesterfield. On Saturday, he was man of the match for his marking job on Cantona, while still finding the time to go forward and create some of Derby's better chances.

"We worked on a plan in training this week with Marco Gabbiadini being our Cantona," Trollope said. "He wasn't too pleased because I kicked lumps out of him."

Having Gabbiadini as his double might not please Cantona too much either, but on Saturday he, and United, had other problems. All the talk around Old Trafford recently has been of the possibility of having to play four games in eight days on the run-in, with its unhappy overtones of 1992, when United left the title slip from their grasp.

On Saturday, apart from his defence, the main target for Ferguson's ire was Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, who had been incautious enough to suggest that United

should put up or shut up rather than appealing to the Premier League to extend the season.

But, if 1992 is an awful memory, the shades of 1968 may be more appropriate. Then United frittered away a significant lead in the championship as the European Cup loomed large in their sights.

In 1968, they at least won the bigger trophy. On Saturday's form, that would seem unlikely, but Ferguson put a brave face on things. "It might be a useful warning," he said. "The concentration level will be high after that."

It certainly was not on Saturday. One of the best defences in the Premiership looked more like the worst and, in front of them, Keane was so subdued that he survived 90 minutes with David Elleray as referee without being booked.

United began brightly enough, but soon, as Trollope began to impose himself on Cantona, and Larsson on Giggs, the cracks began to appear behind.

Ward scored one and missed twice as the defence just started in front of him. "He scuffed his shot for the goal, he should have scuffed the other shots, too, and he'd probably have scored," Smith said. Wanchope ensured a memorable debut with a 60-yard run without challenge. A third goal, and it would probably have been all over, but Ward's misses gave United breathing space.

As it was, United left the field at the interval to scattered boos. After 90 minutes, both sides deserved their standing ovation. United's recovery failed as Schmeichel's error gave Sturridge Derby's decisive third goal, but it was a glorious failure, producing as thrilling a 45 minutes as one could wish to see.

Van der Laan, Darryl Powell, McGrath and Trollope were heroic but, even so, United scored twice and Trollope discovered that even when you keep Cantona quiet the term is relative. The Frenchman escaped his attentions to score United's first and supplied the long ball, aimed for Cole, which McGrath deflected into Solisjaer's path for the second. Ultimately, however, it was still not quite enough.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel; G. Neville, D. Jones, S. Carr, R. Johnson, G. Poyet; R. van der Laan, D. Powell, C. Powell, P. Wanchope (sub: P. Simpson, 65), A. Ward, D. Sturridge. Referee: D. Elleray.



Platt, right, scorer of the second Arsenal goal, tussles for possession during the defeat of Chelsea. Photograph: Ben Radford / Allsport

## Wright dismisses Chelsea on the nod

Oliver Holt, football correspondent, on how the extravagance of the evergreen striker stood out in a 3-0 Arsenal victory

IAN WRIGHT was trying out a new routine. The ball was in the back of the net, dispatched there emphatically by the Arsenal striker's left foot, and now he was walking towards the touchline, nodding his head quickly and repeatedly with a mannered expression on his face, milking the adoration of the away fans. "It's my Jamie Redknapp," he said afterwards. "It's my new one. It's a good one. I might keep it."

Wright's homage to his England team-mate, his impersonation of the Liverpool midfielder's reaction to scoring a goal, was just the start of his bravura performance at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. No matter how many goals he scores, how fast they keep flowing, he keeps finding new ways to celebrate.

Russ Gullit, the Chelsea manager, busy finding new ways to berate, said that Arsenal had waited through the London derby like a team playing an exhibition game and, although Bergkamp was sublime, a prosecutor and an executioner rolled into one, there was no doubt who the exhibitionist was. Wright was

going through his bag of tricks as Arsenal kept their slim hopes of winning the FA Carling Premiership alive.

The goal, Arsenal's opener midway through the first half, was his most obvious contribution. Zola, lacklustre after playing for Italy in the goalless draw with Poland last Wednesday, gave the ball away on the halfway line. Bergkamp swept a fine, first-time pass between two defenders into Wright's path and he lashed it past Grodas from 20 yards.

His 27th goal of the season took him to within seven of the Arsenal career record held by Cliff Bastin, a record he could still equal or beat by the end of this campaign. At the start of the second half, though, he turned provider, squaring the ball across the face of the Chelsea goal in the 53rd minute for the unmarked Platt to side-foot into the net.

After that, Chelsea, depleted by four suspensions and injuries to Leboeuf and Newton, wilted in the sun. Vialli

was given a last chance in place of Hughes but, just as they used to say Liverpool always won when Ian Rush scored, now they observe that Chelsea always lose when the Italian striker plays. A fallen idol, he looked like a blunt instrument compared with the rapier that was Wright.

By midway through the second half, Wright, a player so keyed-up for games that he almost got into a fight with a linesman while he was warming up on the Wembley touchline during the England-Mexico match, was indulging in a few party pieces, trapping one ball that fell awkwardly over his shoulder stone dead with one touch, attempting ambitious chips, waving to the Arsenal supporters chanting his name.

Amid all that, though, he chased back tirelessly, robbing the plodding Chelsea midfield time and time again as they stumbled forward. Six minutes from the end, after Bergkamp had completed Chelsea's misery by pouncing

on an aerial defensive mix-up to take the ball round Grodas and slide it into the net, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, took Wright off to give Nicolas Anelka some brief league experience before confirming that the 34-year-old was an integral part of his plans for the future.

"Ian will be a key player here as long as he performs well," Wenger said, "and I cannot think after what I saw today, at the start of April, that by August he will not be able to run any more. He is a very speedy guy and even if he loses a yard of pace, he will still have good speed for some time to come."

Gullit, never a man to spare his charges, was contemptuous of the Chelsea players. He did not name names but Vialli, who had seen a shot rebound off a post in the closing minutes, was damned by implication and only Jody Morris, the young midfielder player, and Dan Petrescu were excluded from the manager's cold fury.

"Everybody in the stadium was astonished about this performance," Gullit said. "It was humiliating. If I had played like this I would be ashamed of myself, but there were not enough of them who were angry about it afterwards."

"They were going up to the Arsenal players in the centre circle and shaking hands and saying 'yes, thank you'. I could not believe it."

"The younger players who came in for today's match needed some help, especially from key players, and they did not get it. They embarrassed themselves and the crowd. Today was an opportunity for some players to show themselves, but now I have to make my conclusions from what I have seen, not only for the FA Cup semi-final next Sunday but for the future."

Vialli, it seems, may be on his way out. Wright is still on his way up.

CHelsea (3-5-2): D. Grodas — P. Parker (sub: D. Glendon, 45min), S. Clarke, E. Johnson (sub: A. Wright, 45), D. Forster, C. Burley, J. Morris, P. Hughes, S. Morris — G. Vialli, G. Zola.

Referee: R. Dales

## Kinnear powerless to ward off semi-final syndrome

Tottenham Hotspur ..... 1  
Wimbledon ..... 0

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

ARE we witnessing the gentrification of Wimbledon? A team so long renowned for being abrasive, combative, even provocative, were "as gentle as any sucking dove" at White Hart Lane on Saturday. The words, of course, are Bottom's and Bottom, in the view of Wimbledon's manager, Joe Kinnear, was precisely what his team lacked.

"We didn't play at all, not at all," he lamented. "We would almost have been doing Tottenham a disservice if we had got away with a draw. I've got two or three thinking of Chelsea [in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final]. I told them I'm not accepting that. If that's going to be their attitude, they are not going to play against Chelsea."

He was especially irate about the goal with which Tottenham belatedly, but deservedly, won the game after 81 minutes, when Dozzell drifted across goal to glance home Sinton's left-wing corner. "It was a very easy goal to defend against," Kinnear said.

Wimbledon's limp display was the more surprising in that they met yet another Tottenham team ravaged by injury, while Calderwood, who was on the bench, is awaiting a cartilage operation. With the exception of Ekoku, called up for international duty by Nigeria, Wimbledon put out a full team. Not until four minutes from the

end did Kinnear bring on a substitute.

"I wanted them to stay on that pitch and work hard," he said. "Why should I make an easy option for them? They're getting paid to play. Whether they're playing the next time remains to be seen."

By contrast, Gerry Francis the Tottenham manager, was "happier" though he was entitled to feel disappointed that so little came from so many chances.

He may have had a point when he claimed that Nielsen was not offside when he volleyed home in the first half. Against that, though, when Sheringham brought a marvellous early save from Sullivan, Rosenthal may well have been offside.

In a largely arid first half, Tottenham made all the opportunities. Five minutes from the break, Nielsen's long throw from the right came straight back to him. He headed the ball into the goalmouth and Dozzell, threaten-



Francis: happy for Dozzell

ing all afternoon, headed it against a post from where it bounced into the hands of a grateful goalkeeper.

In the first minute of the second half, Sheringham headed Austin's right-wing cross against the top of the bar, Francis reflecting that this was the eighteenth time that had happened to his team this season.

It took an hour before Wimbledon threatened Tottenham, but, Leonhardsen finished a strong run with a pass that Holdsworth struck hard and true. Walker, alert despite his previous idleness, dived to turn the ball round the post.

Sinton, whose two previous long-range efforts had flown high and wide, now found the target with a drive that sprang out of Sullivan's arms before he held it at the second attempt. In the closing minutes, Rosenthal ran wild and free down the left and twice came close to scoring a goal. Francis said he was pleased for Dozzell, who has taken much abuse from the crowd this season and seems set on escape when it and his contract end. "Everyone wants to be liked," Francis said. "Everyone wants to be the crowd's favourite, but that's not always the way it is."

The crowd have come round to Dozzell now, but it may be too late.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — D. Austin, S. Campbell, J. Scallan, J. Edmunds — R. Fox, A. Nielsen, J. Dozzell, A. Sinton — E. Sheringham, R. Rosenthal.

Referee: K. Burge

## Racist slur blamed for mass brawl

A TOUCHLINE punch-up involving all 22 players, coaching staff and substitutes, soured Crystal Palace youths' 1-0 South East Counties League second division win against Wimbledon at Palace's Mitcham training ground on Saturday.

The unsavoury incident happened just seconds after Palace's leading scorer, Clinton Morrison, had beaten Pat Jennings, son of the former Northern Ireland goalkeeper, to put the league leaders in front after 25 minutes.

The fracas occurred on the touchline where Wimbledon's coaching staff were situated alongside supporters. It is believed it was sparked by a racist remark made to one of the Wimbledon players. Palace officials, including Peter Nicholas, the youth team manager and former Wales midfielder player, followed the players across the field to the melee. Nicholas said afterwards: "I did not see the incident as I was on the other touchline when it started."

It took three minutes before order could be restored. The referee, Douglas Tooley, of St Paul's Cray, said he would seek guidance from the South East Counties League regarding any possible further action.

Alan Leather, the League secretary, said: "The referee was in charge of the game and if he does not make a report then the matter will be taken no further and there will be no inquiry." Palace's win keeps alive their hopes of a fourth successive league title.

## Everton lose early sparkle after Watson's pep talk

Aston Villa ..... 3  
Everton ..... 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHATEVER it was that Dave Watson said in his first half-time team talk as Everton's acting player-manager, he would be well advised to change the script next time.

An even first half was followed by such a one-sided second period that Everton barely managed a shot in the entire 45 minutes, while Villa, who had looked unconvincing earlier in the match, could have doubled their final score.

Watson has only six games to get it right, beginning on Wednesday when Leicester City visit Goodison. And while Everton are better-placed than some, and could plead, in mitigation, that they were down to their last 11 fit men at Villa Park, they dropped closer to the FA Carling Premiership danger zone after this result on Saturday and came off looking dispirited and demoralised.

It could all have been so different. Everton opened with some determination and took a thirteenth minute lead when Unsworth hooked the ball in at the second attempt from Ferguson's header. They could already have been ahead. Stuart forcing Oakes into a superb one-handed save after Thomson had dummied Ferguson's cross, then shooting straight at the goalkeeper when Farrelly's back-pass sold Stuart short.

The defence, however, always suggested there was a

way through for Villa, especially when Staunton's run and one-two with Draper gave Milosevic a good chance that he squandered with an embarrassing air-shot. Perhaps Everton imagined that, if the Serb was in that sort of form, they need pay him no further attention. At any rate, five minutes before half-time, they failed to clear a corner and Milosevic was left unmarked to head in.

Parkinson could have restored the lead late in the half, but shot wide; within ten minutes of the restart, the contest was over. First Staunton's free kick flew past Southall from 20 yards, then Farrelly's cross was headed down to Yorkie, attended only by a team-mate — another dreadful piece of Everton marking — and his volley, although mis-hit, beat the unprotected Southall. "We didn't react well to their second goal," Watson said. "Everything seemed to go a bit dead after they went 2-1 up."

Watson had other priorities. "We've got to get today out of our minds and prepare for Wednesday," he said. "The worst thing is if you sit and mope. We have the quality as long as more don't go down injured." And as long as he finds something different to say at half-time.



Milosevic: equaliser

One or two heads dropped and that's something we need to put right."

Villa, in contrast, with Milosevic now a man inspired and the visitors marking and passing sloppily, should have added to their lead several times.

Comfortable for his team in the end, then, but Brian Little, the Villa manager, was not fooled. "It wasn't comfortable for 45 minutes," he admitted. "In their situation, conceding a goal knocks something out of you. Once we'd scored a couple, it could have been more, but I'm happy."

Cautious as ever, Little downplayed the significance of the weekend's scores for Villa's European ambitions. "We've had a lot of these days, when results have gone for us, then we've not responded in the next game," he said. "Experience this season suggests we're quite capable of not following up this result. It's in our hands. If we don't qualify for Europe, it will be our fault."

Watson had other priorities. "We've got to get today out of our minds and prepare for Wednesday," he said. "The worst thing is if you sit and mope. We have the quality as long as more don't go down injured." And as long as he finds something different to say at half-time.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Oakes — U. Ebori, S. Staunton (sub: D. Hughes, 55min), G. Southgate — F. Nelson, I. Taylor (sub: S. Currie, 81), M. Draper, G. Farrelly, A. Wright — D. Yorkie, S. Milosevic.

Referee: J. Winter

## Bassett laments Forest's failure to fight

Nottingham Forest ..... 1  
Southampton ..... 3

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AT THE City Ground before kick-off on Saturday, a leaflet in the match programme reminded home supporters of the "official Nottingham Forest end-of-season clearance sale". It had started on March 15 and offered "star value" for those enticed by its pretty pictures and persuasive prices.

At the close of the FA Carling Premiership game against Southampton, 12 other items had been added to the list of bargains: Crossley, Lyttle, Pearce, Cooper, Chettle, Phillips, Gernill, Saunders, Woan, Van Hooidonck, Haaland and Roy. It is unlikely there were any takers, even with discount.

Forest were abysmal, appalling, atrocious — any derogatory adjective would suffice, but for a relatively spirited second-half showing, from the ashes of a dire first-half display, it would have been total surrender. The Forest fans, long-suffering souls this season, could stomach no more. They left in droves well before the end.

Southampton relied mostly on the complementary clones of Oaldie, Berkovic, Slater and Magilton in midfield — all hurry and scurry, hustle and bustle — and looked good. Had their approach play not broken down so frequently in the last third of the pitch, Forest could have been swamped.

"If we survive, it'll be because we've tried to play football," Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, said. "We don't resort to humping the ball and chasing it. Whatever happens, I've still enjoyed it. I'm working with a bunch of very honest players and you can't ask for more than that."

Honesty, integrity, pride — the prerequisites for any professional footballer, most seriously paid or otherwise. Southampton have them in abundance and thus have a chance of preserving their top-flight status. But Forest's players exhibit all the hallmarks of having prematurely accepted the inevitable.

Full results and league tables ... Page 30

"We're not talking about a bunch of kids here," Dave Bassett, Forest's recently installed general manager, said. "They're all Premiership players and should be able to perform like them. Some of them didn't seem to be out there; we didn't show enough fight, enough bottle."

Bassett's arrival — intended to provide assistance and assurance for Stuart Pearce, the caretaker player-manager — has only added to the confusion, with several players privately and publicly voicing concern as to who is pulling the strings. Pressed on the subject, Bassett was categorical. If unconvinced.

"Stuart picks the team, does the coaching and does the tactics," he said. "I don't do any of that unless I'm asked. I'm the general manager; that's what I came here as and that's what I am. If I wear down the team, I don't like it, then we'll see what happens."

"Quite frankly, it doesn't matter whether it's me or Stuart who is in charge if you play like that. Even Terry Venables would struggle to do the job. I'm not a magician. I'm not Harry Houdini. They were in this mess before I came here."

Forest are now in a deeper shade of mess, with confidence shattered and games running out. Magilton thrust another dagger to the heart in the eighth minute, when his swerving 30-yard shot deceived Crossley, and Southampton strode elegantly onwards. In a frantic finish, Evans capitalised on Pearce's poor backpass, Pearce atoned with a penalty, then Evans again ran through unimpeded.

At least Forest can look forward to April 15, when they play Mansfield Town in the Nottinghamshire County Cup semi-finals. Pearce, Bassett or the tea lady, whoever picks the side, should field the entire first team; it will give them a foretaste of what probably lies ahead next season.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Crossley — D. Lyttle, C. Cooper, S. Chettle, S. Pearce — D. Phillips, A. I. Hoalard, S. Gernill, I. Woan (sub: B. Roy, 55min) — D. Saunders, P. van Hooidonck.

Referee: A. Webb



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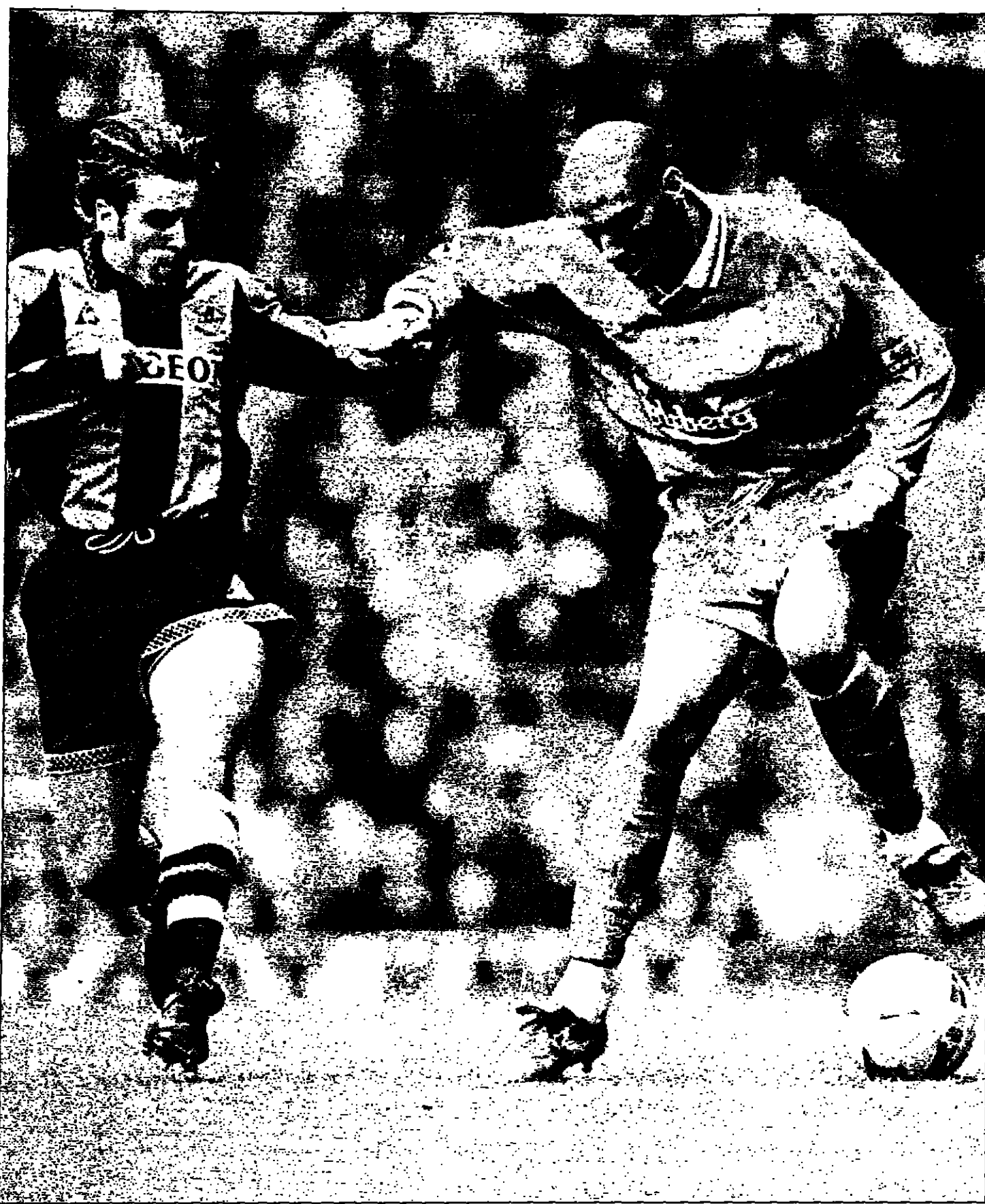
# Dublin exposes Liverpool's flaws

**BY DAVID MADDOCK**

## TOP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	32	18	9	5	63	36	63
Arsenal	33	17	9	7	55	28	60
Liverpool	32	17	9	6	54	28	60
Newcastle	31	15	8	8	60	37	53
Aston Villa	32	15	8	9	40	28	53

Evans was at a loss to explain how his side had once more failed to take a clear opportunity offered by Manchester United. "It's true,



Collymore, right, who squandered numerous openings for Liverpool, is challenged by Huckerby, of Coventry City, yesterday

At least ten chances later — missed predominantly by Colly-

produced a wonderful pass from  
midfield and the little forward

Even then, McManaman created a simple opportunity that Collymore somehow diverted over the crossbar. Berger, the substitute,

**LIVERPOOL (3-5-2):** D. James — BT Kvarme, D. Matteo, S. Hargreaves — J. McAlester, J. Redknapp, S. McKean, R. James, J. Barnes, S.1 Bromby (sub: P. Berger, 77min) — S. Collymore, F. Fowler

**COVENTRY CITY (5-3-2):** S. Ogryzlikov — R. Shaw, P. Williams, D. Dubin, D. Burrows, P. Molloy — N. Whelan, K. Richardson, G. McAllister — D. Huckerby (sub: G. Strachan, 83), E. Jess (sub: M. Hall, 57)

**Referee:** P. Danson.

# When the mind wanders to lost opportunity

Thursdays and kicked off at 4pm, 5pm, 8pm and even 11.15am, which is ludicrous. We have

At least the other kick-off times, when they are fiddled with, are later so it doesn't affect the routine too much. Mine is ripped up and thrown away when I play early.

## Newcastle frailty exposed by evergreen Waddle

By DAVID MILLER

On this occasion, returning after a three-week, six-match absence for another groin operation, and doggedly shadowed by Ord, he did not look worth even the interest on £10 million. Many players returning too early after a lay-off shelter their lack of fitness behind touches of finesse. Shearer does not have finesse

### Shearer: scoring return

Kevin Keegan who achieved so much but won nothing, was let down by his defenders, not to say his system. Dalglish is trying to change the system, which has not made him popular. He will certainly have to alter the personnel. Trophy-winning teams have to be able to play football from the back, and Newcastle have defenders unsure of passing

Newcastle's wasted chances in the first half meant that spirited Sunderland might have gone further ahead before Shearer snatched his morsel as Elliott headed down Ginola's cross.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED** (4-4-2): S. Hiskop — W. Barton, D. Pescocroft, S. Watson, R. Elliott — K. Gillespie, D. Barry, R. Lee (sub. L. Clark, 26min), D. Gincin — A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand (sub. F. Aspinall, 46)

**SUNDERLAND** (4-5-1): L. Perez — G. Hall, L. Howey, R. Ord, D. Kubacki — A. Johnston (sub. D. Kelly, 62), P. Bracewell, C. Waddle, K. Ball, M. Gray (sub. M. Bridger, 73) — P. Stewart (sub. N. Quinn, 84)

Referee: P. Durnin

## Tide turns against Burns as Celtic seek to regroup

In the absence of uninhibited emotion, there is discussion of the changes now required. Celtic may yet win the Tennents Scottish Cup, but

**KEVIN  
McCARRA**



*Scottish  
commentary*

Sifting the evidence will require time, for a serious defence of Burns can be mounted. In his first season, with the poor team he inherited, the 1995 Scottish Cup was won. In the second, no trophies were collected, but Celtic lost only one league match in

Celtic are right to be concerned over their personnel, their organisation and the lack of resolve shown at crucial moments. They may decide to alter the nature of Burns's job and bring in, above him, an experienced general manager from the Continent, but the deliberations will be those of a chastened club. Celtic have learnt that it is easy to improve, but very difficult to triumph.

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FOOTBALL: VICTORY OVER QPR CONFIRMS WANDERERS' RETURN TO PREMIERSHIP AFTER ONE-YEAR ABSENCE

# Lofty ambitions realised on Bolton's big day

ROOTED to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, 21 defeats already endured, relegation inevitable, Bolton Wanderers played Chelsea exactly one year ago today. Ruud Gullit jogged lazily onto the Burnden Park pitch to warm up before the kick-off. As he approached the Burnden Terrace, the stand containing Bolton's most vociferous and partisan supporters, he was greeted by a spontaneous round of applause. Surprised, he tossed back his headlocks, raised his arm and acknowledged their generosity of spirit.

This was the England of the myth: a country of gentlemen where hearts were warm and sportsmanship intact after a season of wretched defeats. Magnanimity in defeat is a glorious quality and it is right and proper that it should be copiously rewarded.

A year on, a 2-1 victory against Queens Park Rangers secured Bolton's promotion from the first division of the Nationwide League on Saturday. They need just two points from their last five matches to become champions. It is a testimony to Bolton's magnificent season that they should celebrate promotion with a month of the campaign remaining. They have lost just four times in 41 league games and have scored three or more goals on 13 occasions.

The promotion party was everything, with the match a mere incidental, which was appropriate for a nondescript game. Television cameras roamed the club car park in search of a flat cap with a quote and the giant turn of tea in the press room was empty an hour before the kick-off.

As usual, the master of ceremonies was the club's mascot, Lofty the Lion. Sassy and spiky, he has few peers in the modern game and his agents may face a busy close season deflecting offers from other clubs requiring his flamboyant touch. Watching a

Mark Hodgkinson on a joyous afternoon of sportsmanship and wild celebrations

man pretending to be a lion pretending to be Freddie Mercury has a remarkably warming effect on a chilly, windy day in the North West.

Queens Park Rangers, who might themselves still secure a play-off place, did not succumb to the mood of levity and promptly scored an excellent goal. Morrow collected the ball a good distance from Bolton's penalty area and, within the blink of an eye, it was in the net. Once more the crowd was privy to Bolton's famous philanthropy. "A lovely goal by QPR, scored by No. 6, Morrow," the match announcer said. There was enthusiasm in his voice, as if seeing this piece of skill — by a member of the visiting team — had actually given him pleasure.

Wembley stalemate ..... 27  
Liverpool stunned ..... 29

Bolton equalised before half-time when Blake's shot was parried and Fairclough stabbed home from close range. The party was back on and Lofty was already dancing on the touchline ready for his interval histrionics. The win, and promotion, were confirmed when McGinlay deflected a shot by Thompson beyond Sommer.

At the final whistle, not a single Bolton supporter ran onto the pitch and this allowed the players and fans to celebrate unfettered. Thompson, sporting a T-shirt reading "We're up and we know we are", danced wildly with Blake, while Taggart careered into Lofty and wrestled him to the ground. This was not a reticent, self-conscious affair, it was 11 men gone mad, not to mention the substitutes, management team, squad players

— paraded in their suits — and pretty much the whole town.

The sun stubbornly refused to shine. A thick buttress of cloud remained steadfast above the floodlights and the wind whistled through the old stadium. Anything else would have been unbearably Bolton had to win promotion in Bolton weather.

Lofty joined in the lap of honour and staggered as he took pretend sips from bottles of champagne. "I've never seen a lion drunk before," the announcer said before revealing that Manchester United had lost to Derby County. "Oh, our cup spillth over," he added quickly.

Queens Park Rangers played their part admirably and adopted the sportsmanship of their hosts. Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, was congratulated by every Rangers player as they left the pitch and a group of about 40 QPR supporters remained on the terraces to witness the lap of honour. They applauded warmly as the Bolton players passed. At such moments, the world can seem a better place.

Afterwards, it seemed churlish to ask, but someone had to, and Todd already had an answer prepared. Did he feel that Bolton were better equipped to survive in the Premiership than they had been last time? "Let's enjoy the moment," Todd replied. "We'll talk about that later." It was said without a hint of rancour. Bolton truly, madly, deeply enjoyed their moment. Tomorrow can wait.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): P. Bracken — S. McNamara, C. Fairclough, G. Taggart, B. Small — J. Pollock (sub: M. Johnson, 76min), P. Fransen (sub: J. Sheridan, 86), A. Thompson, S. Sellers — J. McGinlay, N. Blake (sub: M. Pustisaren, 86). QUEENS PARK RANGERS (2-1-4-2): J. Sommer — S. Yates, D. Mackie, S. Morrow — S. Barker (sub: N. O'Shea, 80) — A. Ince, G. Poyson, P. Murray, R. Bennett — D. Ochie (sub: S. Steele, 80), J. Spencer. Referee: G. Frankland.



The party begins as McGinlay acclaims the goal that beat QPR. Photograph: Lawrence Griffiths / Allsport

## Big bad Wolves are still knocking at Premiership door



McGhee: confident

Wolverhampton W ..... 3  
Norwich City ..... 2

By RICHARD HOBSON

THE season's biggest certainty was realised on Saturday when Bolton Wanderers confirmed their passage into the FA Carling Premiership. Quite who will join them is becoming harder to call by the week.

A theory that Wolverhampton Wanderers would romp away with the second automatic promotion slot in the Nationwide League first division once they edged ahead of Barnsley was thoroughly debunked when they took a single point from four games. Simultaneously, the

Yorkshire club moved clear. Yet the capacity for any side in the first division to squander an opportunity cannot be underestimated. Success against Norwich City on Saturday took Wolves to within a point of Barnsley, who lost at home to Birmingham City. How many more twists and turns can the season absorb?

Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, said: "I think the biggest hindrance to going up will be ourselves. At the start of the season I thought the goals from Bull, Goodman and Roberts would guarantee us promotion. It has not happened like that but, if we win four of our last five games, I think we will go up."

In reality, Wolves have relied on

Bull as much as ever. Victory secured in his absence through suspension was all the more pleasing. Goodman produced what McGhee felt was his best performance for the club, while Roberts, standing in for Bull, scored the winning goal 12 minutes from the end of a capricious encounter.

Wolves went ahead in the nineteenth minute when Thomas followed in a shot from Goodman that Gunn had palmed into his path. Goodman created the second goal, too: create being the operative word. He appeared to have ridden a tackle from Bradshaw in the penalty area and if his eventual fall was not quite ten yards after the challenge, as suggested by Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, then Bradshaw

still had good reason to fume as Curle converted the penalty with 35 minutes gone.

The visitors deserved better for their adventurous approach and went level courtesy of two goals in the three minutes before half-time. Wolves' defensive failings were exposed when Eddie was allowed to head a cross from Stutch towards the unmarked Broughton, who volleyed in from four yards at the far post.

It does not take much for panic to set in at Molineux, in the stands or on the pitch. Each stray pass was met with a loud groan, until Kevin Lynch, the referee, became the focus for frustration. He judged that Roberts had pushed Newman, awarding a

second dubious penalty of the afternoon. Adams sent Stowell the wrong way. The break could not have been more timely.

Thereafter, the pace of Gilles troubled Norwich. Equally, Eddie, the best prospect in the division, threatened when the home team were caught surging forward. Both sides needed more than a draw. Twice, Roberts misjudged from close range, but he sealed victory at the third attempt when he slid in to meet a cross from Ferguson on the left.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M. Stowell — J. Smith, K. Curle, M. Adams, S. Froggatt — G. Thomas, S. Coker (sub: C. Robinson, 40min), D. Ferguson, M. Gilles — D. Goodman, I. Roberts. NORWICH CITY (2-1-1-2): B. Gunn — D. Bradshaw, M. Jackson, R. Newman — N. Adams, I. Croke (sub: D. Mills, 76), M. Milligan, D. Stutch — D. Eddie — D. Broughton, R. Fleck (sub: S. Casey, 66). Referee: K. Lynch.

## Gloucester in driving seat after goalless stalemate

Dagenham and R ..... 0  
Gloucester City ..... 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

THE FA Umbro Trophy semi-finalists managed only one goal between them on Saturday — Rob-in Taylor's first-minute strike at Kingfield that Woking will take with them to Stevenage Borough for the second leg of their all-Vauxhall Conference tie on Saturday.

Goals never looked like coming at Dagenham's Victoria Ground as an unruly wind played havoc with the best laid footballing plans. Suffice it to say that, as the subdued home supporters filed out, it was Gloucester's noisy band in the 2,077 crowd that stayed to cheer the applause of thanks from Leroy Rosenoir and his team.

Their good humour was improved by a Dr Mariens League scoreline, gleaned from local radio and delivered over the public address, after a friendly twist of the arm from Keith Gardner, the visitors' chairman, of "Nuneaton Borough 1 Cheltenham Town 0" that improved Gloucester's Conference ambitions.

Gloucester produced the one moment that taxed a goalkeeper when Watkins met a free kick by McGrath from the touchline with a firm header that Gothard tipped over the bar. Dagenham, of the Icic League, could, otherwise, take comfort from the rock-solid barrier supplied by the experienced Creaser and Conner at the heart of their defence.

In well-matched teams, effectively mixing old heads with young legs, the first-half duel between Pratt and Burns, the Gloucester captain, was outstanding. Honours were even, but it was Pratt, son of a famous Tottenham Hotspur father, reed up by Naylor, nephew of a famous Tottenham father, who delivered Dagenham's best chance.

Rogers, who had initiated the sweeping crossfield move with Double, arrived in time to meet Pratt's perfect cross in front of a yawning goal, but somehow failed to connect.

The place in the final at Wembley on May 18 remains well and truly up for grabs.

DAGENHAM AND REBRIDGE (3-5-2): P. Gothard — D. Claphouse, S. Conner, G. Creaser, D. Pratt, D. Parratt, L. Double, J. Brown, C. Davidson (sub: V. John, 87min) — A. Rogers, C. Naylor (sub: J. Sturges, 80). GLOUCESTER CITY (4-4-2): D. Colles — G. Thomas, S. Ferguson, G. Kump, McGrath — J. Hollins, S. Cooper, D. Webb, C. Burns — D. Holmes (sub: A. Mills, 10), D. Walters. Referee: G. Barber.

## Barcelona cruise to victory

BARCELONA boosted their hopes of taking Spain's second European Champions' League place yesterday when they brushed aside Sporting Gijón 4-0 to move two points clear of third-placed Real Betis, who could only draw 2-2 at home to Racing Santander.

Barcelona, who are now within six points of the leaders, Real Madrid, who face Compostela today, cruised to victory with goals from Ivan de la Pena, Juan Pizzi and the Brazilians, Giovanni and Ronaldo.

Espanol pulled out of the danger zone with a 1-0 win away to their fellow strugglers, Rayo Vallecano, while Valencia, prompting speculation that Jorge Valdano, their coach, could be sacked.

Parma moved closer towards a place in the European Cup for the first time, with a 3-0 home win over Sampdoria. Two goals by Hernan Crespo and one from his fellow Argentine, Nestor Sensi, tightened Parma's grip on second place in Serie A and automatic entry into the Champions' League next season.

Carlo Ancelotti's side enjoy a four-point lead over third-placed Bologna, 3-2 winners at home to Reggiana, and Internazionale, who were held to a scoreless draw at Fiorentina. The win could breathe new life into a title race that has been dominated by Juventus. Cagliari gained vital points in their battle against relegation with a 2-1 win over Roma.

## Bournemouth left to take poor view of struggle for survival

Peterborough United ..... 3  
Bournemouth ..... 1

By KEITH PIKE

THIS game very nearly did not take place at all and those who saw it would be stretching a point to say that a thing of great natural beauty had been saved for the nation. But when the local radio man from Bournemouth conducts his pre-match interview with the club's receiver, and when the home team still rates £3 at the turnstile almost as important as three points on the pitch, it is clear that sporting excellence has long since given way to survival as the Saturday raison d'être.

At the turn of the year both these clubs were in crisis, but Peterborough (debts £2.8 million, long-term prospects bleak) found their salvation in a local philanthropist with deep-pockets who had made his dough from the pizza business. Bournemouth (debts £4.8 million, long-term prospects even bleaker) may yet be saved by the refusal of a handful of supporters to accept closure as inevitable and the discovery of a hitherto undetected passion for football in Dorset.

Football on the brink, or more false alarms? It is not the latter, according to Barry Fry, and he should know — he has twice mortgaged his house to help his club to stave off the creditors. Managing in the football basement when Aldershot and Maidstone United went out of business

five years ago, Fry believes that the grass roots of the game could yet wither under the strongest pesticide of all: the banks.

"Most clubs are into the banks for vast sums of money," the Peterborough manager said, after watching his side win the battle of two of the Nationwide League second division's endangered species. "If one bank closes one football club, then that bank will close a dozen or 15



Fry: threat from banks

overnight, and that is the frightening thing. "I know the Premiership is getting bigger and richer, but the beauty of our game is that we have four divisions and a healthy [Vauxhall] Conference. We won't improve the game if half the clubs close and the rest go part-time, and there are 75 per cent of clubs in the bottom two divisions who are one bank manager's phone call away from trouble.

maybe half the first division as well. It's horrific."

Fry's vote for manager of the year, therefore, goes not to Alex Ferguson and his ilk, but to Med Machin, who has conjured a run of six wins and five draws in 14 games while Bournemouth have been on the brink of oblivion. "He has been brilliant, a god, to keep the pressure off the players and get those results," Fry said. "I am a football-lover and I am sure I speak for everybody in the country when I say I am delighted the club looks like being rescued."

Nothing could save Bournemouth on Saturday in a game so wretched — in the first half at least — that killing off lower-division football clubs suddenly seemed a worthwhile ambition. Rawlinson equalised with the goal of the game from 30 yards according to John Beck, that unashamed proponent of the fast, robust, direct style, and on a day made for kite flying and aerial bombardment, they simply overpowered Swansea to move within two points of the play-off places.

Swansea were unable to say that they had not been warned. Molby had told his players precisely what to expect and instructed them not to try to take Lincoln on at their own game, but his words had fallen on deaf ears.

The most important thing when you are playing against teams like this is to get the ball down and knock it about," Molby said, "but we did not do that. We played three centre backs to deal with their long

## Molby's warning falls on deaf ears

Lincoln City ..... 4  
Swansea City ..... 0

By PAT GIBSON

SWANSEA City could have been forgiven if they had popped into the great cathedral on the hill before they set off back to Wales on Saturday night and offered a quiet prayer that they do not have to meet Lincoln City in the play-offs for promotion from the Nationwide League third division.

It must have seemed like an awful possibility, after a run of four wins and a draw had been brought to a shuddering halt by a team playing a kind of football that is in stark contrast to the philosophy preached by Jan Molby, their player-manager.

Lincoln follow the gospel according to John Beck, that unashamed proponent of the fast, robust, direct style, and on a day made for kite flying and aerial bombardment, they simply overpowered Swansea to move within two points of the play-off places.

Swansea were unable to say that they had not been warned. Molby had told his players precisely what to expect and instructed them not to try to take Lincoln on at their own game, but his words had fallen on deaf ears.

balls, but every time one of them won it, they just kicked it as far as they could."

The pattern was set from the start. Lincoln immediately rained balls into the Swansea penalty area and the tactic paid off in the eighteenth minute. O'Leary struggled to control a bouncing ball after one of Barnett's innumerable long throw-ins and Alcide got a boot in to loop it over Freestone and into the net.

For a while it looked as though Swansea might be able to play their way back into the game, but they were doomed when they conceded a penalty in the 56th minute. Edwards brought down Ainsworth, who got up to shoot fiercely past Freestone.

Six minutes later Stantford had the ball in after Freestone had saved from Alcide and Brown had hit the underside of the bar, and then Ainsworth made the best goal of the lot in the 74th minute when he tore down the right and put over a low cross that Stant flicked in.

Beck was understandably jubilant. "We outthought them, we out-worked them and we outplayed them," he said. Molby remained philosophical. "There is no right way or wrong way of playing football," he said. "John Beck plays his way. I play a different way."

LINCOLN CITY (3-5-2): J. Vaughan — J. Barnett, J. Robertson, K. Austin — G. Ainsworth, T. Davies, S. Holmes, W. Sterling (sub: C. Stone, 71min), C. Alcide — S. Brown, P. Stantford. SWANSEA CITY (5-3-2): R. Freestone — J. Price, K. O'Leary (sub: L. Jenkins, 59), S. Jones, C. Edwards, J. Morrison — J. Coates, J. Molby, K. Amey (sub: D. Penney, D. Thomas. Referee: T. West.

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# Rees stings Bath with last-minute conversion

**By DAVID HANDS**  
**RUGBY CORRESPONDENT**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	16	14	1	3	553	344	29
Leicester	16	13	0	3	489	240	26
Bath	17	11	1	5	592	324	23
Sale	16	10	1	5	440	325	21
Harlequins	18	10	0	6	591	329	20

Bath left London intensely disappointed. Guscott's first try had edged them ahead 11-9 at the interval, the centre sent Adebayo over for the second and the same combination accounted for Guscott's third, from all of 70 metres, which looked to have won the match with five minutes remaining.

son was hurled into the corner and, though Wasps won the lineout, Dallaglio was held up and Bath awarded the scrum on their own line. The clearance would have been all but sufficient, but Hilton was judged to have dropped the front row and Wasps took advantage of the lifeline: King



It was such a change of complexion from the opening quarter of a match played in front of 10,500 supporters, who imparted a genuine atmosphere to the occasion. Ten minutes of high-speed, high quality rugby produced Rees's first penalty, but then the

wrenched the lead back for Wasps before Guscott's first *tour de force*. The ambitions of both sides never faltered but the accuracy of their play did. and Bath owed a huge debt to Lyle for recycling sufficient ball to allow them to sustain their positive play.

Adebayo increased Bath's lead, but three successive penalties from Rees put Wasps back on level terms with eight minutes remaining. Two seasons ago, both sides might have settled for the draw, but now such thoughts were conspicuous by their absence: Guscott scored at one end, but then could only sit, disconsolate, on the hoardings at the other as Rees kicked the conversion to draw the match.

**SCORES:** Wasps: Try: King Conversion: Rees; Penalty goal(s): Rees (6); Dropped goal(s) King; Bath: Tries: Guscott (2), Jenkins; Calf: Callard; Penalty goal(s): Call (2)

**WASPS:** G Rees, S Rozer, N Greenstock, R Henderson, K Logan, A King, A Comerall, D Moly, S Mitchell, W Green, L. Jones, J. Williams, P. Williams, C Sheasby; Mitchell replaced by K Dunn (56m); Sheasby replaced by P Swinney (62m); Green replaced by J Dunston (78m)

**BATH:** M Perry; J Slingshotline, M Padgett, A. G. Jones, A. G. Jones, A. G. Jones, K Yates, F Mendez, J Mallett, R Webster, G Llanes, M Hegg, N Thomas, D Lytle; Mallett replaced by J. Jones (59m); Hegg replaced by S. Johnson (68m); Perry replaced by J Callard (78m)

**Release:** C White (Glooucestershire).

Gala .....	20
Watsonians .....	59

**BY MARK SOUSTER**

Chris Paterson, Duncan Paterson's nephew, converted and, suddenly, self-believed, coursed through Gala. Although their attacks were limited, the half backs kicked judiciously for territorial gain.

Kerr and Giles, who looked far more impressive in attack and ran in from 50 metres. Fitzgerald, the prop, then added another before Swan

**T Weir.**  
**WATSONIANS:** B Giles, G Hannah, G Mayer, A Garry, J Kerr; D Hodge, G Burns; T Smith, G Mickelvey, F Fitzgerald, C Mather, S Grimes, J White, I Sinclair, C Brown. Hannah replaced by F Henderson, 35min. Brown replaced by R Wainwright 40min. Burns replaced by J Weston (63); Sinclair replaced by N Penny (72)  
 Referee: I Ramage (Berwick).

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## Goulding enjoys Paris in the spring

**FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS**

At least his enforced  
**New bo**

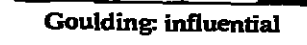
Just before half-time, though, they found themselves down to 12 men after Steve Prescott was sent to the sin bin



**SCORERS:** Paris Saint-Germain: Try: Chamorn Conversion: Wall. St Helens: Tries: Hunte (2), Martyn (2), Sullivan, Prescott, Joynt, Arnold. Conversions: Goulding (4) Penalties: Goulding (2).

**PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN:** D Bird, A Wall, J Olejnik, P Evans, F Dewaruch, D Lomax, P Bergman; J Sands, D O'Donnell, T Piddle, W Sing, M Hogue, P Chamorn. Substitutes: A Peters, P Bellamy, N Hyde, J Durkin.

ST HELENS: S Prescott, D Arnold, A Hurns, P Newlove, A Sullivan, T Martyn, B Goulding, A Parelli, K Cunningham, J O'Neill, C Joynt, C Morley, K Hammond. Substitutes: V Matauba, A Northey, P Anderson, I Pickavance.  
Referee: S Presley (Castelford).



## New boys Salford stalk St Helens

**BY OUR SPORTS STAFF**

The new Warrington coach, Darryl Van de Velde, enjoyed the perfect start to his reign at Wilderspool, the Wolves beating Oldham 28-18. John Roper scored 16 points with a try and six goals from seven attempts to leave the Bears at the foot of the table, still without a point.

In the first division, Hull maintained their unbeaten start to the season, with a 43-10 defeat of Wakefield at the Boulevard. They stay a point clear of Huddersfield.

**THE SA**  
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Rochdale's 24-14 win over Bramley kept them second to Carlisle on points difference, but Doncaster slumped to their sixth defeat in a row, losing 24-20 at home to Lancashire Lynx.

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## CHANGING TIMES

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RUGBY UNION: DEFEAT OF NEWCASTLE IN RUGGED CONTEST UNDERLINES PROGRESS MADE UNDER WARREN

# Bedford lay firm foundations to build on

Bedford ..... 34  
Newcastle ..... 28

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE will be days such as this again in Bedford — though not necessarily at Goldington Road, their traditional home — if good husbandry and home-town commitment mean anything. Just when the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship had virtually acknowledged Newcastle's rise to the top, along came Bedford to spoil the party and the chances are that Richmond will now go up as champions.

If everything these days has a price, the one paid on Saturday was entirely unnecessary: the British Isles may lose a wing if Tony Underwood's broken jaw does not mend in time and Bedford are fortunate not to have lost their young lock, Scott Murray, for



Popplewell: punch

the final straight. Murray saw an eye specialist yesterday to assess the damage after a blatant punch by Nick Popplewell sent him to hospital in Luton and, if Newcastle have any sense of responsibility, they will discipline the Ireland prop forward.

The experienced Popplewell swung a big right hand as the ball moved away from a lineout, for which he received a yellow card. Steve Lander, the referee, acted entirely on his touch judge's advice because his back was to the incident, but Popplewell deserved to be sent off. Happily, Murray suffered no more than a cut eyebrow and bruising, but Bedford will invite the Rugby Football Union disciplinary officer to view the incident, if Newcastle do not take action.

It is not enough for the club management to hide behind the fact that the incident was

dealt with by match officials at the time. A greater responsibility devolves on those who manage professional sport in these highly visible times and, though Newcastle may point to offences by Bedford players — late in the day there were yellow cards for dangerous tackles by Steve McCurrie and Junior Paramore, as well as Paul Hewitt's furious challenge on Underwood that dispatched the England wing to hospital — that does not wipe clean their own slate.

Murray was the most dependable Bedford ball-winner, as Sean Platford, their lock from Natal, is also injured. It is timely that they have finalised the transfer of Norman Hadley, from Wasps. At least the joy of victory could balance their sense of grievance, a victory deserved on a frantic afternoon when 6,000 Bedford supporters came to appreciate that top-flight rugby could yet return.

Bedford perceive third place and a play-off against the club placed tenth in the first division as within reach, but they know that they cannot produce storming displays such as this one week in, week out. "Whether we get into the first division or not there will have to be more buys, sensible buys," Frank Warren, their chairman, said.

Warren would have been happy to see Bedford finish in the top six this season, but the mature combination of Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, with Paul Turner, Jeff Probyn and Rudolf Strauli has paid unlooked-for dividends. It means that Warren now has to consider whether a purpose-built stadium on an alternative site should be part of his plans, so that the five-figure crowds he believes are on tap can be accommodated.

Newcastle will be concerned that, with the greater weight of possession and penalties and the strong wind at their backs in the second half, they could not secure victory. Of wider concern is the fact that a side including four Lions backs could make so little impression with ball in hand. Of that quartet, Underwood has been told that, though his jaw has not been displaced, he is unlikely to play again for a month and the Lions leave for South Africa on May 17.

So dependent were Newcastle on Va'aiga Tuigamala to take them forward that the Bedford defence knew that if they could hold the big man,



Offiah celebrates scoring the fifth try for Bedford to put them on the way to an impressive victory over Newcastle. Photograph: John Gichigi/Allsport

half their task would be done. Thus McCurrie launched himself time and again in the tackle, closely attended by Paramore, whose combination with Strauli and Roy Winters was so vital for Bedford.

That they were prepared to infringe the offside line time and again — 30 penalties went Newcastle's way compared with 15 to Bedford — appeared not to concern them, because

they found the precious ability to score points at critical moments. Much of that stemmed from the play at scrum half of Darren Edwards, the Welshman on loan from Saracens, who showed great vision and good hands in everything he did as well as securing a try on the stroke of half-time.

His pass sent Paramore free to send Hewitt over for the first try after Rayer and

Andrew had exchanged penalties. He was involved again when Paramore and Strauli drove downfield and Turner's soft pass sent Whetstone careering free for his thirteenth try of the season in league and cup. Though Andrew floated two penalties down the wind, Bedford had the perfect response when Boyd, their Irish prop, was driven over.

A 20-point lead going into the final quarter set the scene

for a rearguard action of the highest quality. Tuigamala set Tait free, Lam crossed for a second Newcastle try and suddenly the gap was down to six points; then the smoothest of passing by Paramore and McCurrie gave Offiah a sniff of the line and he needed no second invitation. That Graham scored in the fifth minute of stoppage time mattered not a jot to Bedford, or to their baying crowd.

SCORERS: Bedford: Tries: Hewitt, Edwards, Whetstone, Boyd, Offiah, Conversions: Rayer (3). Penalty goal: Rayer. Newcastle: Tries: Tait, Lam, Graham. Conversions: Andrew (2). Penalty goals: Andrew (3). Bedford: M. Rayer, P. Hewitt, B. Whetstone, S. McCurrie, M. Offiah, P. Turner, D. Edwards, C. Boyd, P. Paramore, J. Probyn, R. Winters, S. Murray, N. Hadley, J. Paramore, R. Strauli, M. Murray replaced by M. Deane (45th), S. Murray replaced by N. McCann (77). Newcastle: J. Sampson, J. Bentley, A. Tait, V. Tuigamala, J. Underwood, R. Andrew, G. Armstrong, N. Popplewell, R. Neasdale, G. Graham, S. O'Neill, G. Archer, G. West, R. Arnold, P. Lam. Underwood replaced by G. Childs (53). O'Neill temporarily replaced by H. Vynnyk (30-40). Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).

## Accurate Jarvis displays touch of master

Cardiff ..... 46  
Neath ..... 17

By GERALD DAVIES

LEE JARVIS, the Cardiff stand-off half, is developing wonderfully in the position that he will no doubt take over next season, when Jonathan Davies is likely to have a less prominent role.

Varying his play with his kicking, passing and running, Jarvis, 21, is maturing rapidly. There are errors of timing still, but these will also be corrected when he plays as first choice in the position and performs more regularly.

More than these factors is his vast influence as a points-scorer. The understudy to Neil Jenkins at Pontypridd before he joined Cardiff, he has clearly inherited his accuracy from the goalkicking maestro.

In the first quarter of this match on Saturday, Neath exerted plenty of pressure but Jarvis, once he was presented with opportunities to kick at goal, took them with alacrity, whereas Case was failing with seemingly easier chances for the visitors. In a period of five minutes, Jarvis put his side into the lead with three penalties. Before half-time he had collected another two and converted two splendid tries that Cardiff had manufactured for Walker and Hill. It was an immaculate, effortless display.

Neath could only respond with a penalty from Case on the stroke of half-time. That Jarvis should kick one conversion and miss two after the

## Clubs protest to no avail

THE executive carried the day by 206 to 147 votes at the special meeting in Cardiff yesterday that agreed to cut the Welsh League premier division from 12 teams to eight from next season.

The bottom four teams will help to form a new 16-team first division that will include Cross Keys and Llandovery, who lead the present second division and whose hopes of promotion have now been ended.

Officials from Treorchy, Caerphilly and Llandovery made impassioned pleas for the plan to be scrapped, although all six sides directly affected by restructuring will receive financial compensation. The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) confirmed that the new premier division would kick off on August 16, with one club being relegated and one promoted.

The WRU also revealed that Wales's international against Romania will take place at the Racecourse Ground, home of Wrexham Football Club, while work continues on the Millennium Stadium. No decision has been made on where Wales will play their five nations' fixtures next season.

interval did not take anything away from the impression that he is going to play a leading role in Cardiff's future. He will need to keep up his average over the next few weeks if his side is to finish in the top four of the Welsh League and qualify for the Heineken Cup.

Neath need some victories, too, but for a different reason. With the first division to be reduced to eight clubs, the champions of last season are only two points ahead of Dunvant, who are in ninth position. On Saturday, their young players broke through midfield regularly, thanks to the finely timed passing of Hawkins and Funnell. They created some flowing moves, but were not able to capitalise.

Cardiff only played confidently in fits and starts. It is the search for greater consistency that no doubt prompted the swift return of Alex Evans as coach on Wednesday. His first task will be to prepare the team for the Swale Cup semi-final against Llanelli on Sunday. Cardiff know that they need a more rounded performance than this to succeed.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Tries: Walker, Hill (2), Ford, Ringer. Conversions: Jones (3). Penalty goals: Jarvis (5). Neath: Tries: Bridges, S. Williams. Conversions: Case (2). Penalty goals: Case. Cardiff: J. Jarvis, S. Ford, L. Davies, S. Hill, R. Walker, J. Lewis, A. Lewis, J. Humphreys, J. Mules, J. Ringer, J. Stewart, D. Jones, M. Barnett, O. Williams. Howley replaced by J. Howley (53). Neath: D. Case, C. Hogg, D. Hawkins, J. Funnell, R. Jones, D. Morris, C. Bridges, D. Morris, B. Williams, J. Davies, J. Bowyer, S. Martin, M. Williams, R. Jones, S. Williams. Darren Morris replaced by G. Davies (53th). J. Davies replaced by T. Gomer (57). Bowyer replaced by S. Newman (53). R. Jones replaced by S. Gardner (53). Referee: R. Roberts (Durban).

## Leicester's second-string make poor Orrell look like amateurs

Leicester ..... 36  
Orrell ..... 14

By ALISON KERVIN

IT IS difficult to be harsh about Orrell: almost politically incorrect. The northern team have come to hold such a unique place in the public's affections because of their reluctance to bow to the demands of professionalism that criticising them is like denouncing nurses.

But this is a professional era and the consequences of Orrell's decision to sit tight while the winds of change blow all around them are becoming clearer. Orrell play with guts and determination, with heart and soul, and they challenge their opponents — but they rarely win. And for that reason they are adrift at the bottom of the Courage League first division.

On Saturday, Leicester, one of the title contenders, chose initially to rest some newly-selected British

Lions at the risk of not nudging up their precious points difference, which could prove crucial by the end of the season. Orrell undoubtedly derived benefit from the diminution of Leicester's front row, allowing them to give the Midlands' side a few scares in the scrums.

Leicester took the lead, however, which they never relinquished, after just five minutes when Rob Liley, the stand-off half, put Niall Malone away for a try. Then came the try of the match — Bill Drake-Lee made an initial break, well supported by his forwards, before shipping the ball out to Craig Joiner to pass to Steve Hackney to score. Orrell replied through scrum half Steve Cook, who took the ball over after a bullish run from Michael Worsley.

Rory Underwood ended a poor first quarter — dropping passes in the drizzling rain — by taking a well-timed pass from Neil Back and sprinting for the line. Leicester made it four when Matt Poole went over.

In the second half, Leicester's

attempts to pile on the points were curtailed by strong Orrell defence, but Malone got his second try of the day and Joiner capped a good performance in the centre with Leicester's sixth. Orrell managed just one score in return — a penalty try after Dean Richards was caught unbound at the back of the scrum.

In the 67th minute, Orrell could only stand and gaze as Martin Johnson, the Lions captain, led Dean Richards, Austin Healey and Graham Rowntree on to the pitch as Leicester's replacements.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Malone (2), Hackney, Underwood, Poole, Joiner. Conversions: J. Liley (3). Orrell: Tries: Cook, penalty try. Conversions: McCutcheon (2). Leicester: J. Liley, S. Hackney, N. Malone, C. Jones, R. Underwood, R. Liley, A. Kilduff, D. Jeffrey, D. West, D. Garton, B. Drake-Lee, M. Turner, M. Poole, E. Miller, N. Back, Miller replaced by D. Richards (40th), Petcher replaced by M. Johnson (57), Garton replaced by G. Rowntree (77), Underwood replaced by A. Healey (77), Hackney replaced by P. O'Leary (74). Orrell: D. Liley, J. Hawley, P. Hamer, L. Tuigamala, N. Heslop, M. McCaffrey, S. Cook, M. Worsley, N. Michon, J. Turner, A. Bennett, P. Pires, C. Barber, R. Higgs, P. Anderson. Healey replaced by A. Mitchell (42), Petcher replaced by J. Hurley (67), Lyon replaced by R. Hincham (74), Cook replaced by R. Saverimutt (75). Referee: S. Pacey (Yorkshire).

## Mapletoft sinks Saracens' sad stars with last-ditch strikes

Gloucester ..... 9  
Saracens ..... 6

By BRYAN STILES

TRIUMPHANT Gloucester supporters could not resist the temptation to sing a few choruses of "What a waste of money" as the costly multinational Saracens team trudged off having had victory snatched from their grasp in the dying minutes of this Courage Clubs Championship match at Kingsholm on Saturday.

Gloucester's rugged, home-grown team had more than matched their cosmopolitan rivals in a rousing finale that saw Mark Mapletoft, their stand-off half, collect two dropped goals, the first to level the scores and the second to secure victory, all in the last seven minutes.

The result pulls Gloucester a little further away from the relegation that seemed inevitable earlier in the season. It also put a dent in Saracens' hopes of finishing in the

league's top four, which would bring them a place in the European Cup next season.

Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, reckons his team need another two points to be sure of retaining their status and is confident they will get them when they meet Leicester tomorrow at Kingsholm. Motivation will be no problem for his players after the way Leicester beat them in the Pilkington Cup semi-final a week ago.

On Saturday Gloucester, despite their full-blooded display, looked for most of the game as if they were going to lose, particularly as they faced such a firmament of costly stars who always seemed about to explode into try-scoring action. Saracens fielded eight internationals, including Francois Pienaar (South Africa), Philippe Sella (France) and Tony Daly (Australia). More importantly, they paraded the talents of Richard Hill, of England, the pick of them all.

With their array of talent and

territorial advantage, Saracens should not have had to suffer the Gloucester taunts, but they hung their heads, especially when Pienaar, the "Mr Clean" of rugby, was issued with a yellow card for foul play in the second half.

One player who had a smile on his face for most of the game was Dave Sims, the Gloucester captain, whose wife, Jill, gave birth to their first baby, Nathaniel, in hospital at 2.10pm, leaving Sims with just enough time to make the kick-off.

Turnnigley and Lee kicked penalty goals for Saracens and Mapletoft replied with a penalty goal and two dropped goals.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Dropped goals: Mapletoft (2). Penalty goal: Mapletoft. Saracens: Penalty goals: Turnnigley, Lee. Gloucester: C. Callaghan, C. Emmerson, M. Roberts, M. Lloyd, M. Mapletoft, S. Bennett, T. Triles, C. Chapman. Conversions: Lacey, B. Bottemann, P. Wallace, J. Green, F. Jones, A. Copsey, R. Hill. A. Dupont. Sella replaced by K. Sonnell (53), Sims replaced by P. Pienaar (52), Daly replaced by A. O'Leary (74). Referee: A. Rowden (Berkshire).

## Sale bargaining on European windfall

West Hartlepool ..... 22  
Sale ..... 43

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS MUCH as reaching the Pilkington Cup final next month means to Sale, their sights are set on greater riches in Europe next season. To achieve them, they need to beat the three teams above them in their six remaining Courage Clubs Championship fixtures, which is by no means impossible given the mood that they are in.

However, the wear and tear on a small squad was showing at Brierton Lane on Saturday, despite the emphatic nature of a third win in eight days. West Hartlepool threatened an upset when they recovered from 19-3 down to 19-7. Predictably, they fell apart again and are now perched above the relegation trapdoor.

West's hopes of avoiding second division rugby next season are slim. As well as

they can play in patches there is an infuriating inconsistency about them: as solid and creative as the back row of Ions, Earnshaw and Morgan looked when going forward, they were nowhere to be seen in the try off a scrum by Mannix that swung the match Sale's way again.

Dewi Morris, wayward up to that point, laid on Mannix's all-important try, then put Bein away for the second of his three scores and plundered one himself in a runaway finish for the Manchester team.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Tries: S. John (3), Penalty goals: C. John (4), Sale: Tries: Bein (2), Mitchell, Rice, Mannix, D. Morris. Conversions: Mannix (4). West Hartlepool: J. O'Connell, S. John, J. Connolly, J. Knowles, G. Tinsdale, C. John, B. Ryan, D. Barnes, A. Peacock, W. de Jonge, J. Jones, C. Murphy, L. Francis, R. Earnshaw, I. Morgan. Peacock replaced by M. Kennedy (58th), Francis replaced by G. Rowntree (58th), Ions replaced by D. Mitchell (58th). Sale: J. McDermott, D. Rees, J. Bannister, A. Sale, J. McArthur, S. Morris, D. Williams, M. Hawley, L. Hewson, A. Smith, D. Egan, J. Hogg, D. Baldwin, D. O'Grady, J. Mitchell. O'Grady replaced by A. Mann (53), Dwyer replaced by A. Yates (53), Hickey replaced by D. Wright (70), Mitchell replaced by P. Sanderson (77). Referee: N. Cousins (London).

## Bristol's outlook brighter

Bristol ..... 20  
Northampton ..... 11

By NICOLAS ANDREWS

DOWN among the dead men, something stirs. Bristol may still be red-hot favourites for a relegation play-off place, and they would need to win four of their last five games to have a chance of avoiding it, but this second successive victory in the Courage Clubs Championship suggests that they might, at last, be heading in the right direction.

Certainly, a two-leg play-off meeting with their former captain, Derek Eves, and his Coventry team-mates next month will seem a lot more palatable if they can sustain this run of improved form.

Bristol have restructured their off-field activities, promoting David Tyler, another former captain, to chief executive. Meanwhile, Alan Davies, the coach, has concentrated on the development of his younger players. And the signs are encouraging.

Without Regan and Shaw, their two British Lions, but with a strong wind at their backs, Bristol led a distinctly lacklustre Northampton 20-3 at the break. Rollitt scored the first try from a rolling maul after a tapped penalty and the impressive Corry broke and fed Waters for the second three minutes later. Burke converted both and kicked two penalties to pass 250 points for the season.

Northampton roused themselves after the break and spent much of the second half within reach of the Bristol line. The tackling in defence was resolute, however, and Townsend, at stand-off half in the absence of Grayson, missed three penalty kicks, which effectively prevented Northampton getting back into the game.

Hunter's late try reduced the deficit, but Northampton, with four British Lions among those present, wore the look of a side with their minds on other things. "We didn't do ourselves justice," Ian McGeechan, the North-

ampton director of rugby, said. "We had chances, but we didn't take them."

If Bristol are to avoid the play-offs, it could well be at Northampton's expense. "There are a lot of key games to come," McGeechan said.

Rodder went off early with a neck injury. Townsend was a disappointing goalkicker and Dawson emphatically lost the scrum-half battle to a former Lion in Robert Jones.

Bristol know they have a battle in prospect but, with the South Africa tour looming, it would be all too easy for some Northampton players to forget the job in hand. It could yet be a testing few weeks for McGeechan's men.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Rollitt, Waters, Conversions: Burke (2). Penalty goals: Burke (2). Northampton: Try: Hunter. Penalty goals: Townsend (2). Bristol: J. Lewin, D. Tyler, F. Waters, K. Hogg, B. Beattie, P. Burke, R. Jones, D. Adams, C. Eagle, R. Corry, E. Rollitt. Rollitt replaced by D. Corry (40th), Jones replaced by R. Smith (75). Northampton: J. Hunter, N. Beak, J. Bell, M. Allen, H. Thompson, G. Thompson, M. Dawson, M. Voller, A. Clarke, M. Stewart, J. Rodder, J. Phillips, J. Chandler, J. Wright, G. Solly. Bell replaced by E. Cohen (33), Chandler replaced by S. Fole (61), Rodder replaced by C. Johnson (79). Referee: J. Pearson (Cleveland).

## Irish slam brakes on Harlequins' journey

London Irish ..... 20  
Harlequins ..... 19

By PETER BILLS

THE price that Harlequins may pay for this defeat has yet to be calculated and, indeed, the surprising defeat of Saracens at Gloucester spared them an even worse outcome to the weekend.

But if Harlequins miss a place in the European Cup via a top-four finish in the Courage Clubs Championship, then the ramifications will be severe. What was known even before this reversal on Saturday was that Harlequins are releasing eight players and seeking to recruit five or six new men. Those figures may be adjusted in the light of their second serious defeat in consecutive weeks.

Harlequins established a 13-0 lead within the first 15 minutes at Sunbury and then selected cruise control. Little more than an hour later, they

were coming to terms with one of the most significant upsets of the season.

The spirited Irish were allowed to destroy any pattern to the game through the commitment optimised by players such as Dawson, O'Connell, Fulcher and Bishop.

With Harlequins leading 19-13, Irish launched a late attack. Humphreys made the half-break and O'Shea forced his way over near the posts. Humphreys' conversion was greeted with a tumultuous roar.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Walsh, O'Shea. Conversions: Humphreys (2). Penalty goals: Humphreys (2). Harlequins: Tries: Chapman. Conversions: Lacey, Bottemann, P. Wallace, J. Green, F. Jones, A. Copsey, R. Hill. A. Dupont. Sella replaced by K. Sonnell (53), Sims replaced by P. Pienaar (52), Daly replaced by A. O'Leary (74). Referee: C. Pears (London Society).



Richard Dunwoody reflects on a day of sadness which stiffened the resolve

## Determined to put on a great display

We will take home our own memories of what happened at Aintree on Saturday but the overriding emotion for me was one of sadness. It was a very sad day for sport in general and the irony is that no sport brings the countries of England and Ireland closer together than racing — especially steeplechasing.

If anything, the bomb scare that ruined the day for so many has brought the jockeys from both countries closer together. We acknowledged the futility of our situation on Saturday. There was nothing we, or anyone else, could do. But now we are more determined than ever to put up a great show today.

All jockeys are proud of the Grand National. It is our biggest showcase; it transcends the normal racing audience and it will, God willing, take place this afternoon. The crowds may be slightly diminished but it is our race, our show and it will mean everything to everyone involved today. Nothing can change that. It has been delayed for 48 hours, that is all.

We saw some wonderful moments of defiance on Saturday, culminating in the rescheduling of the race. Like everyone else, I thought the people at Aintree handled the situation as well as anyone could have expected. Fortunately, there were no injuries to humans or horses. Thinking about these details has helped to put the whole thing into perspective: we are all there to race today.

Before the scare on Saturday, I was one of the last to leave the weighing room. I'd changed into my lightest riding gear when I heard the announcement to evacuate the course. At first we thought it would be all over in two

minutes — scares of this type have happened before in racing. But we soon realised there was no way the race would be going ahead this time.

Some of us headed towards the owners' and trainers' car park via the Melling Road. That road is a famous landmark in the Grand National and it goes without saying we were all expecting to cross it on horseback.

Still, there were consolations on a bitterly cold afternoon. Around a dozen jockeys, a handful of owners and the odd trainer ended up drinking cups of tea at Mrs Sunderland's house by the side of the course. My valet, John Buckingham, stays with her for the meeting and she did us proud. I believe something stronger than tea was doing the rounds but, sadly, it never came my way.

To judge by the state of a few of my colleagues on Sunday morning, something stronger was certainly drunk at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool the night before. I stayed in Runcorn and had an enjoyable dinner in the company of a few friends. I travelled back from Aintree in the back of Robert Alner's horsebox. I never thought I would be so pleased to see the inside of one of those again.

We left Aintree three hours after we had to evacuate the course and most of us were freezing. The fact that it is now a one-off race, with no supporting card, does not allow us the chance to warm up.

I like to have a ride or two in advance of a big race — it loosens the muscles and I am without any aches and pains. For these reasons, the ride none of us look forward to is the first on a Monday. So



Dunwoody, left, and Jason Titley in good spirits at Aintree before the announcement of the bomb scare

many horses are set to carry the minimum weight of ten stone today that many of the boys have been wasting to make the weight. We will have to stretch each other into shape — although I am sure the adrenalin will play its part in helping us warm up.

You cannot keep jockeys down for long, however, and sure enough some interesting tales are filtering through about what they have been up to. The younger ones play hard at this meeting; unfortunately, their trainers might not be too amused to learn

about that here, although from what I've heard, one or two of them have shown the stamina required to match the winner of the Grand National itself.

Let's not forget that's why we are all here today. The objective remains the same.

the challenge equally daunting, and the sensation of winning will be just as acute. I have the feeling that this afternoon's race will be one of the most exciting.

We, as jockeys, will be doing our utmost to make it so.

## Betting industry owes Aintree National debt

Alasdair Murray analyses the financial implications of Saturday's postponement

The betting industry yesterday breathed a huge sigh of relief after the decision was taken to re-stage Saturday's postponed Grand National today. An abandonment had threatened to throw the industry's revival off-course.

The loss of the National — for the second time in four years — would have badly dented the bookmakers' annual profits. An estimated £70 million has been laid out on the big race this year with the bookmakers expected to take around £5 million in profit from their biggest day of the year.

But it is the unquantifiable impact that the cancellation of the National would have had on future business that most worried the bookmakers. The Grand National provides the betting industry with an unequalled shop window — the one day that thousands of first-time or infrequent punters visit betting shops and become exposed to the increasingly wide array of betting products on offer. These customers are hardly likely to be won over by a race that fails to take place.

The betting industry has suffered a lean time during the last few years. The embarrassment of the void Grand National in 1993 has been followed by a succession of weather interruptions to the winter National Hunt program. The profitability of the Flat racing season during the summer has also been hit by arid weather, greatly reducing the number of runners and thus making racing less attractive and more predictable.

Moreover, the arrival of competition from the National Lottery has damaged the industry considerably. The Lottery has cost bookmakers an estimated £120 million a year in turnover — with the vast majority of the shortfall coming from bets placed on racing.

The major bookmakers — Ladbrokes, Coral and William Hill — have begun to fight back against the Lottery, winning a succession of deregulatory measures which have reduced betting tax and

permitted cash-price amusement machines in betting shops for the first time. But the success of other forms of betting — an estimated £80 million was staked on football's European Championship last year — and the introduction of new products, such as 49s, a fixed-odds lottery bet, has helped bookmakers stem the decline in profits.

The betting industry is desperate to cast off its old-man's image — largely associated with racing — and attract new customers, especially women. The City is also keen for bookmakers to expand into new markets, not just to restore the lost profits, but to improve the financial stability of the betting industry. Racing remains a volatile medium: James Deaton's seven winners at Ascot cost the bookies around £30 million last year. The last thing the industry needs is uncertainty of whether its flagship event will even take place.

Not surprisingly, the proportion of bookmaker turnover from racing is declining — from 75 per cent in 1990 to 70 per cent last year. This has a knock-on impact on the quality of racing through the Levy — approximately 1 per cent of every bet — being reinvested in the sport. The cancellation of the National would have cost the sport around £750,000.

For the moment, the bookmakers insist that racing remains their core activity. The National Hunt season has largely gone to plan this year, and although there are again worries that some courses will be too firm, it is far too early to comment on the Flat season. The bookmakers hope that heavy promotion of other betting opportunities may also ultimately lead new punters into betting on the horses.

But the pressures from both the City, which wants to see steady profits, and stiff competition from other gambling activities are forcing the bookmakers to look beyond racing. Further mishaps like Saturday's will only accelerate the decline in importance of betting on racing.

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

## Need to consider postponements

THE extremely dry conditions are having a damaging impact on the sport and after four poor meetings on Saturday it is time to consider postponements (Carl Evans writes).

Such a notion will be anathema to hunters, which jealously guard their traditional dates and know that moving at short notice invariably reduces the crowd — it can also cause a clash with other nearby meetings but these are unusual circumstances and what is being offered to the public is not racing. Sometimes it is even unfair to ask horses to compete.

Regulation courses are no longer allowed to stage meet-

ings on hard ground, and point-to-pointing should follow the same route.

In general, spectators turn up regardless, happy to support their local hunt and enjoy a day in the countryside. That was not the case at the Royal Artillery meeting at Larkhill, the scene of a sparse attendance on Saturday.

Two walk-overs did at least prevent the winners having to gallop on very firm turf. The rest of the racing was contested by moderate horses and, while Fobury was another welcome winner for title-chasing Tim Mitchell, his beating of three lowly rivals was like watching concrete dry.

### POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

BRAMHAM MOOR (Wetherby) Hunt: 1. Cot Lane (J. Tate, 1-3 fav), 2. Orbital (only 2 finished), 3. rurs, 4. rurs, 5. rurs, 6. rurs, 7. rurs, 8. rurs, 9. rurs, 10. rurs, 11. rurs, 12. rurs, 13. rurs, 14. rurs, 15. rurs, 16. rurs, 17. rurs, 18. rurs, 19. rurs, 20. rurs, 21. rurs, 22. rurs, 23. rurs, 24. rurs, 25. rurs, 26. rurs, 27. rurs, 28. rurs, 29. rurs, 30. rurs, 31. rurs, 32. rurs, 33. rurs, 34. rurs, 35. rurs, 36. rurs, 37. rurs, 38. rurs, 39. rurs, 40. rurs, 41. rurs, 42. rurs, 43. rurs, 44. rurs, 45. rurs, 46. rurs, 47. rurs, 48. rurs, 49. rurs, 50. rurs, 51. rurs, 52. rurs, 53. rurs, 54. rurs, 55. rurs, 56. rurs, 57. rurs, 58. rurs, 59. rurs, 60. rurs, 61. rurs, 62. rurs, 63. rurs, 64. rurs, 65. rurs, 66. rurs, 67. rurs, 68. rurs, 69. rurs, 70. rurs, 71. rurs, 72. rurs, 73. rurs, 74. rurs, 75. rurs, 76. rurs, 77. rurs, 78. rurs, 79. rurs, 80. rurs, 81. rurs, 82. rurs, 83. rurs, 84. rurs, 85. rurs, 86. rurs, 87. rurs, 88. rurs, 89. rurs, 90. rurs, 91. rurs, 92. rurs, 93. rurs, 94. rurs, 95. rurs, 96. rurs, 97. rurs, 98. rurs, 99. rurs, 100. rurs, 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ROWING: HOW SCALED-DOWN BOATS ARE GIVING YOUNGSTERS A HEAD START IN SCULLING

# Headington girls take to the water

By JOHN GOODBODY

MANY sports are better taught to youngsters by using small-sized equipment or pitches. Youngsters do not have the physique or ability to learn correct skills on the facilities and implements of adults.

It has long been the accepted practice to coach football on small-sided pitches. Athletics has lighter weights for the throwing events. Cricket has smaller bats, balls, stumps and pitches, while tennis has a popular version of the game — short tennis.

Rowing, too, is adapting. Headington School, Oxford, is extremely unusual in having purpose-built boats, which are

shorter, narrower and lighter, for their pupils to learn sculling. Girls as young as 11 years old are acquiring the necessary skills in scaled-down versions of full-sized boats.

Cathy Partridge, Headington's director of coaching, said: "Traditionally, youngsters started to learn in what looked like bath tubs. They were sculling with their arms round their ears and then almost had to relearn the skills when they got into racing boats."

The Amateur Rowing Association prohibits actual rowing until girls are 16 years old, because otherwise it might hamper their long-term physical development. However, sculling is encouraged. So the Headington girls acquire the necessary technique suitable for children as light as 35kg. The boats are smaller, with the rigging narrower.

Partridge said: "Girls of that



Andrea Lomas, 13, right, and Claire Painter, 14, of Headington School, Oxford, in purpose-built sculls. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

size do not have the height or arm-span to use adult boats or oars. By using smaller equipment, you get them to row the correct length of stroke."

The girls are initially taught in the school's swimming pool to learn the basic balance and water skills. They then transfer to Hinksey Lake, outside Oxford.

Partridge said: "Safety is at a premium. Before any starts, they have to be able to swim 100 metres. While on the lake they are always within 45 seconds of an adult."

Only after this initial training are they allowed on the river. They can then attend any of the seven weekly ses-

sions under the supervision of the four-strong coaching team. Andrea Lomas, 13, and Claire Painter, 14, have been sculling for two years. Andrea particularly likes being in quads. "There are so many people. It is like a team," she said.

Claire has become so enthusiastic about the activity that she has her own rowing machine at home. "I would like to do really well in the sport," she said. "My mum is keen for me to do well academically, but I believe I can do both."

Headington began the sport in 1992, largely because the girls pointed out that there was a river nearby that they were not using. Some of the

attracted 1,600 competitors from New Zealand, Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom. KCS finished first in the under-15 coxed quad, under-16 coxed quad, under-19 coxed quad and the under-19 coxed four, and was also second in two other events.

bers for the British junior squad. One is Tamsin Roberts, 16, who began sculling at the school. "I felt that other sports weren't really me. The success I enjoyed in sculling motivated me," she said.

She admits that she does not find training "the nicest thing". Tamsin still exercises 14 hours a week, either on the river or using weights and ergometers.

However, you have to do it to get the results," she said. "Some other girls think we must be mad to row when there is only the odd victory now and then. However, it means so much more to you when you win events."

## Anglers cannot afford climate of indifference

Brian Clarke on the lethal downward spiral caused by prolonged drought

EIGHT years of drought and their likely effect on water supplies have been much in the news. Few anglers understand the implications for their sport. The start of a new trout season, after the two driest years since records began, seems a good time to make them plain. Profound changes, for game anglers especially, are under way.

Rainfall figures are a matter of record. Many upland rivers are squeezing between the stones. More insidiously, the underground aquifers — the great cavernous sponges that give rise to the springs that feed rivers and lakes in much of the South and East — are at an historical low just when they should be at their fullest.

Such rain as falls this year is unlikely to help, even in the short term. It is winter rain that counts. Summer rain is mostly taken up by plants and evaporated by the sun. At the same time, as usual in summer, demand for water will soar. Reservoirs look set to shrink within their cracked-tile margins. Abstraction will suck more from the already parched ground.

A lethal downward spiral, for this year at least, looks inevitable. All water life is going to feel the effect. Anglers, especially those who fish for cold-water species such as trout, will see a deadly scramble for life from close up.

The progression will be most evident on rivers. Falling water levels will mean fewer places where fish can live. Competition for the best places — and then for any places at all — will increase. Fish unable to find lies that can provide them with sufficient food and security will weaken and die.

As water levels continue to fall, the remaining fish will retreat into the deeper pools, where they will become vulnerable to poachers and predators. In particular, fish losses to cormorants on shrinking waters could be locally catastrophic. Through it all, farming will go on and, as a result, more chemicals will be sprayed onto the land. Little by little they will leach into the water, less diluted. The insects that many fish eat, having already been thinned by their own shrinking habitat, will take a second hit from poisons. The fish will now not only have less space, but less food.

Summer, if it is a typical summer, will move on. As the weather warms, so the water will warm — and as the water warms, so the levels of oxygen dissolved in it will drop. Now, fish being jammed together in exposed places with an inadequate food supply will begin to have breathing problems.

Without substantial heavy rain and unseasonably dull, cold weather, the spiral will quicken. Hot, sunny weather and less dilution of fertilisers will see the power of modern chemicals at work, not only on crops but also on plant life in the water, and significantly on algae.

Dense growths of blanket

weed, a suffocating algae that can, in such conditions, fill a river from bed to surface and bank to bank, will result. When night falls, algae will stop pouring out the oxygen that photosynthesis has produced and carbon dioxide levels in the water will rise. The breathing problems of fish such as trout will intensify and, in extreme cases, fish will die.

As if this appalling scenario was not enough, other, subtle changes already begun on many rivers will spread. Reduced water velocities will mean more silt on the stream bed. More silt and reduced flows will lead to changes in plant life. Increased silt and reduced oxygen levels will lead to changes in insect populations and to steep declines in the species that have traditionally formed the basis of the fly-fisher's art.

If this summer follows the pattern of those of late, all of these changes will be seen this season. If the drought and warm summers continue, as experts predict, anglers will find themselves looking not only at the occasional dry year, but also at a very different kind of sport. Warm-water fish, such as carp, will thrive. Trout fishing will, quite literally, dry up.

Through it all, angling's representative bodies have vital roles to play. The Anglers' Conservation Association — the sport's legal arm — is going to be busier than ever. The Salmon and Trout Association, as the most active political lobby, and the National Federation of

Anglers, which has the most members, will need to make their new-found single voice piercingly heard. Special-interest groups, among them the recently formed Wild Trout Society, will need to attack and harry.

Above all, the role of the Environment Agency (EA), which this month marks its first anniversary, is going to be critical. The EA combines the responsibilities of the former National Rivers Authority (NRA) with pollution and waste regulation. It is now responsible for the quality of air, land and water together.

The NRA, which focused solely on water, managed for all its imperfections to get to grips with many of the issues that are vital to anglers. It brought science and, on occasion, real clout to bear. Since it was first mooted, anglers have feared that the EA's wider and often competing responsibilities will cause it to lose the focus on fisheries that the NRA achieved.

The EA itself must ensure that this does not happen. Anglers, who fund the EA's fisheries function, have a right to expect it not to happen. In the world we are facing, stocks everywhere are going to need all the help they can get. Everyone concerned with fisheries is going to have to be on their toes. The changing climate will prove challenge enough.

□ Brian Clarke's angling column appears on the first Monday of each month.

### BASKETBALL

## Leicester quick to repay Donewald

By NICHOLAS HARLING

IF EVER there was vindication for foresight, it came with the qualification of Leicester Riders for the Budweiser League play-offs. Just 48 hours after he had signed a two-year extension to his contract as coach, Bob Donewald steered them into eighth place and two meetings next weekend with Leopards, the champions.

"I made up my mind some time ago that I wanted Bob to stay," Kevin Routledge, the Leicester chairman, said. "I like the way the guys play for him and I like the way he works."

Under Donewald, 27, easily the league's youngest coach, Leicester had competed for the best part of the season with Derby Storm for the last place in the play-offs. When Derby beat the Riders a fortnight ago, it looked as though their East Midlands rivals would go through but, with the Storm defeated 91-89 at home by Sheffield Sharks on Saturday, Leicester were able to celebrate their own 96-94 victory over Birmingham Bulls.

"We're delighted and excited to be there," Donewald said. "We've not even come close to beating the Leopards this season so we know it's going to be tough, but at least we've fulfilled our ambitions by getting this far."

Leon McGee, with 31 points,

was Leicester's leading scorer, but the most courageous act came from Justin Phoenix, who collected 16 points — and the last decisive rebound — only two hours after having a plaster cast removed from his right hand. He had even gone to the consultants in his kit, ready to play. "Considering that he was in pain he played extremely well," Donewald said.

The Riders had come from 70-57 down and were still 92-89 adrift going into the last two minutes when McGee, Phoenix and Gene Waldron came up with the all-important baskets to leave both the game's outstanding marksman, Nigel Lloyd, who scored 32 points, and Tony Dorsey, who scored 28, among the vanquished.

Jimmy Ratiff experienced the same fate for the Storm, whose coach, Jeff Jones, might not now enjoy the kind of job security afforded Donewald. Mike Horton, the Derby chairman, is known to be extremely ambitious.

With the help of 30 points from the prolific James Hamilton, Worthing Bears compensated for their failure to reach the play-offs for the first time in seven years by beating Chester Jets — who have qualified for the first time — 83-76.

### SNOOKER: WELSHMAN TRIUMPHS AS WORLD CHAMPION BLAMES BURN-OUT

## Williams keeps Hendry out of frame

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY fell victim to his own consistency and the refusal of Mark Williams to be intimidated by reputation when he suffered a surprise defeat in the final of the British Open at Plymouth on Saturday.

Hendry's 9-2 reversal was his heaviest in a final, eclipsing 10-4 defeats by Jimmy White at the 1991 Mercantile Classic and Steve Davis at the 1993 European Open. It also ended a sequence of 11 successful final appearances for the Scot stretching back to the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters of 1995.

While Hendry laid the

blame squarely at the door of competitive fatigue, there was no hint of sour grapes. Hendry magnanimously described Williams as "a phenomenal talent", but did not allow the occasion to pass without criticising what he regards as an unreasonable tournament calendar.

Hendry, winner of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge, Regal Welsh Open, International Open and Irish Masters during the first three months of the year, had also figured in two quarter-finals and a semi-final before travelling to Plymouth.

"There was nothing left in the tank," Hendry said. "I've played an awful lot of snooker

week in, week out lately and I have simply run out of steam. There are too many events and that's why I was pleased to hear that two ranking tournaments are being dropped from the schedule next season."

"After a result like this I am entitled to feel absolutely gutted, but I don't. It just wasn't me out there. I'm glad I'll be able to take a few days rest to recharge the batteries before the world championship, because they are badly needed at the moment."

While the conclusion that Hendry's burn-out influenced the outcome was inescapable, it would also be unfair to suggest that Williams's capture of a third title in 15

months, after triumphs at the Welsh Open and Grand Prix last year, was merely due to his opponent's ineffectiveness.

True, Hendry capitulated only 50 minutes into the evening's play as Williams converted a 5-2 first session lead into victory. However, by then, the damage had been done as the Welshman compiled breaks of 56, 50, 68, 66, and 59 to assume control.

"To beat the greatest player in history by such a huge margin is unreal. I think it will take a long time for this to sink in," Williams, who collected a first prize of £60,000, said.

RESULT: M Williams (Welsh) 5-2 S Hendry (Scott) 9-2. Frame scores: Williams 7-61, 7-45, 6-40, 8-70, 7-51, 65-20, 73-48, 75-16, 75-8, 61-44, 61-21.

### SPEEDWAY: PETERBOROUGH OWNER GAMBLES ON INTRODUCING NEW TEAM

## Oakes ready to branch out in Skegness

By TONY HOARE

SPEEDWAY sails into uncharted waters this weekend when Skegness Stadium becomes the second new venue in two years to open its doors to the sport.

After a 12-year period without the launch of a new club, 1996 saw the arrival of Wight Wizards on the Isle of Wight and the Skegness promotion has taken its cue from the island club.

Ryde was the financial success story of last year, attracting large crowds by speedway standards (1,500-2,000), and Peter Oakes, the Skegness promoter, admits that the Wizards' achievement

provided the main incentive to launch the new club on the Yorkshire coast.

"It was the one major factor in deciding to do it," Oakes said. "People had said you could never be successful with speedway, but Ryde never ran a meeting in the holiday season, yet were incredibly successful."

Oakes is a former national newspaper journalist who took control of Peterborough when they were on the brink of extinction in 1992 and turned them into one of the country's most successful teams. He has entered the Skegness, Braves into the Premier League, to act as a sister track to Peterborough, of the Elite

League, but confesses he is nervous about the new venture.

"This is the sort of gamble that gives you sleepless nights," Oakes said. "There has been a very heavy investment to get Skegness up and running. You wake up with that recurring nightmare that there will not be a single person in the stadium." In contrast to the Amateur League set-up at Ryde, Oakes has to pay wages to his riders.

"We are not expecting to win championships and cups this year," he said. "Skegness has never had speedway before and we hope people will come along and support us."

### GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

#### TODAY

FA Cup Third Round: Reading v Luton (7.30). Football League Cup: Reading v Luton (7.30). Football League Cup: Reading v Luton (7.30). Football League Cup: Reading v Luton (7.30).

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## SAILING

# Atlantic crossing record finally falls to flying Finn

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the oldest records in sailing was broken at the weekend when the Bruce Farr-designed 80ft Grand Mistral maxi, *Nicorette*, skipped by Ludde Ingvall, set the fastest time for a monohull crossing of the Atlantic from New York to Cornwall.

After being frustrated by a high-pressure system that seemed to anticipate Ingvall's every evasive move during the second half of the trip, the yacht ran gently past the Lizard at 2.57 yesterday morning to set a time of 11 days, 13 hours and 22 minutes.

*Nicorette*, which showed blistering speed over the first two days when she briefly touched 29.2 knots, had travelled a total of 3,005 miles at an average speed of 10.83 knots. She thus comprehensively beat the record set in 1905 by the schooner, *Atlantic*, by 14hr, 38min and 50sec.

Ingvall, a Finn based in Sweden, originally chartered the boat for the Grand Mistral round-the-world race, which is unlikely now to take place. He was delighted to have achieved his objective. "This is a fantastic achievement and a thrill for everyone who has been involved," he said as the celebrations began at the Royal Western Yacht Club, in Plymouth.

"Conditions were favourable for the first few days, but the high pressure made life

extremely difficult for us. This has been an experience of a lifetime and, in many ways, I'm sad that it has come to an end."

Ingvall was helped by a young and enthusiastic crew drawn from all over the world, including two leading women ocean racers, Mikaela von Koskull, from Finland, who sailed as a watch captain, and Adrienne Cahalan, of Australia, who recently resigned from the Elle Racing Whitbread syndicate and who was one of the three helmsmen.

The sole British representative was Bob Fisher, 61, who was ready to have another go yesterday. Fisher was on board as navigator and was satisfied with his work, despite the stubborn high in the latter stages.

"We have done it by a convincing margin," he said. "We are happy enough with it, though we'd have liked to have really smashed it. At one stage, eight to nine days was on the cards. The Atlantic can offer you anything. It did and we coped. One day, somebody's going to get it so right, by luck as much as anything, and they are just going to go whacking through."

Driven before a deep low-pressure system that whipped the breeze up to over 100mph, *Nicorette* reached the 1,000-mile mark in only three days, despite a torn mainsail that was down for repairs for 13 hours. During one six-hour period the giant sloop covered 110 miles, including one 30-minute segment when she averaged 20.9 knots.

In the closing stages, however, *Nicorette* was reduced at times to just four knots and put in one 189-mile day as Ingvall battled to hold on to his early gains. Apart from the tears in the mainsail, caused by broken battens, damage was limited to a job that had the top ripped out and a worrying moment when one of the cables linking the starboard wheel to the rudder parted.

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Maria Bertelli, of Manchester United Salford, who were narrowly defeated by Malory in the final of the women's National Cup in Sheffield

## Tooting finalise towering achievement

David Powell, on a visit to Sheffield, finds change is afoot as British volleyball seeks to catch up with the professionals

When staff at the English Volleyball Association (EVA) turned up for work on the morning after the second round of the men's National Cup, something was not quite right. There was a message saying that London Malory had lost. True or hoax? "We did not believe it," Gillian Harrison, the EVA chief executive, said.

Malory had won 96 consecutive matches. "We checked with three different sources to make sure it was correct," Harrison added. It was: Tooting Aquila had defeated Malory 3-0. Worth every penny of the £700 a year it costs each Aquila player to commit to the National League and Cup. No six-figure salaries in England, like those in Italy, Brazil and Japan.

While Tooting went on to defeat City of Stoke 3-1 on finals day at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, on Saturday, it was left to the Malory women to

uphold club honour. Against Manchester United, OK, it was Manchester United Salford, but they were wearing Manchester United colours and they are MUFC-approved.

It was all strikingly different from the Atlanta Olympic Games, when two Malory players, Audrey Cooper and Amanda Glover, were part of the bikini set appearing in beach volleyball. Different not just sartorially, but tactically. Indoors, there are six to a team, outdoors two.

Though Malory won 3-2, neither Cooper nor Jefferson Williams, the coach, was impressed. This was spectacular volleyball, more thrilling than classic. "The suspense was good, but not the volleyball," Williams said. "Venessa [Malone] was prob-

ably our best player, but she did not play that well."

Great Britain have never made the Olympics at the indoor game. It began to develop in England after the Second World War, with the influx of eastern Europeans, and evidence of that influence remains to this day with the likes of Essex, Estovians, Ealing Polonia and Coventry Riga playing in the National League.

The growing number of sports halls in the Seventies and the appointment of professional staff helped to precipitate a surge of interest in the Eighties. The drive to have volleyball taught at schools and teacher training colleges was also critical in the progress towards the present figure of 35,000 players in England.

"It was a big fight to break the traditions of rugby, cricket and football," Don Anthony, the EVA founder, said. The fight continues. "Still the people who govern sport in this country, like John Major and his Minister for Sport, Iain Sproule, see the team games as football and cricket, but the big world team games are football, basketball and volleyball," Anthony added.

For three years, 20 young players, designated as the elite Britain squad, have been based at Sheffield and Hallam universities and Sheffield College, under a full-time coach. "We suggest those with potential come to Sheffield but they have to achieve academically to get into the universities," Michael McKeever, the EVA technical director, said.

However, Matthew Jones and Marcus Russell are now playing professionally in France, the first two from the Sheffield project to have made the transition. McKeever expects more to follow.

"To reach Olympic standard, our first step is to get British players playing professionally," he said. Then, perhaps, there will be a phone call to the EVA saying that Britain have qualified for the Olympic Games. And the staff, arriving for work, will believe it.

## Fair wind blows for Dorset's cup hopefuls

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE British team representing the Royal Dorset Yacht Club's planned challenge for the 2000 America's Cup, put in an impressive performance in Auckland last week, to finish second in the first of a series of "Road to America's Cup" regattas.

The British crew, skippered by Chris Law and including Lou Varney, Chris Mason, Neal McDonald, and Andy Beadsworth, beat Ed Baird's Young America syndicate from New York, Dawn Riley's San Francisco-based America True team and the France Pacific syndicate, in the opening round-robin series.

No 1 match-racer, Russell Coutts, who will defend the cup for New Zealand at the head of the Black Magic team, and lost 4-1. Nevertheless, it was a strong performance by the British crew, who were put together at the last minute.

The British success, however, cannot disguise the fact that the chances of a Royal Dorset syndicate actually participating in the cup are

seemingly no stronger now than they were a year ago when the Dorset consortium, led by Chris Witty, first emerged. Witty needs £10-15 million to have a credible crack at the cup and is still looking for it.

In contrast to Witty, who remains busily optimistic, Law seemed pessimistic about the chances of a British boat turning up in 2000. "I can't see how all the pieces will fit together," he was quoted as saying, adding that he was looking at other syndicates, though his preference would be to sail for Britain.

In the BT Global Challenge, meanwhile, Chris Tibbs, on *Concert*, has taken the lead from Mike Golding's *Group 4* in the fourth leg, with fewer than 500 miles left to Cape Town. An elated Tibbs, whose yacht was dismasted on the first Southern Ocean leg, said: "Exhilarating downwind sailing. Thoroughly enjoying being in the lead. It's going to be an exciting finish."

## ROWING: GRAND EIGHT CHAMPION GOES IT ALONE AND DEFIES CROSSWIND

### Kettle steams to Scullers Head title

MARTIN KETTLE, of Queens Tower, took the Scullers Head title on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). Kettle, a member of the winning Queens Tower Henley grand eight last summer, is aiming for British sculling selection this year and led off the 381 competitors after Peter Haining, the holder, was forced to withdraw because of illness.

Kettle still had to beat two former winners of the event, Olympian Guy Pooley and Niall O'Toole, the former world champion, of Ireland. Pooley

followed Kettle away and pushed him hard. "I took a bit off him in the middle third when a nasty crosswind from Barnes shook people up a bit," Kettle said. The younger man, however, won by 1.50sec in the fourth fastest time in the 43-year history of the event. O'Toole, starting at 131, suffered from bad steering in a strong tailwind and finished fourth, and said: "I did not really deal with the conditions."

The third spot was snatched from O'Toole by Tim Male, from Tideway

Scullers, whose doubles partner, Tom Middleton, who is also pushing for selection, rose from 130 to sixth. Tom Gale, another Queens Tower product, finished fifth.

The first woman home was Guin Batten, of Thames. Britain's Olympic finalist, who beat the course record by four seconds and finished 32nd, more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-placed woman, her elder sister, Miriam. James Di Luzio, 16, from Morlake, created junior history by finishing tenth.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
Charity No 2595 Trust & Orphans Society (incorporating the Trustees of the Charity)  
Reference 214/00016753  
The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme of Arrangements for the winding up of the Charity. A copy of the Scheme can be seen at 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-59, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JF. The Scheme will be made available to the public on the date of this notice. Dated the 7th day of April 1997.

### LEGAL NOTICES

**DANIELS LIMITED**  
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)  
COMPANY NUMBER 2400096  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 21 March 1997 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Martin Phillips of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 0BT was appointed Liquidator by the Members.  
The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.11(2) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must submit their claims to the Liquidator by 1 June 1997 and that those who have submitted claims will be no further considered by the Liquidator. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already moved.  
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full. Date 27.3.97  
M. Phillips, Liquidator

**STARLING HAULAGE LIMITED**  
Registered Number: 2622196  
Trading Name: Starling Haulage Limited  
Notice is hereby given that the company is being wound up and that the Liquidator is Martin Phillips of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 0BT. The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full. Date 27.3.97  
M. Phillips, Liquidator

### LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of *Shadsworth Ltd* (formerly *Pauling (UK)*) Limited  
and  
in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above company is to be held at 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, on 17th April 1997, at 12.00 pm to consider any proposal for the winding up of the company. The meeting is to be held in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider the appointment of a Liquidator. The full details of the company's affairs and the names and addresses of the creditors are available at the registered office of the company, 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, or at the Liquidator's office, 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, on or before 13 May 1997. The full details of the company's affairs and the names and addresses of the creditors are also available at the Liquidator's office, 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, on or before 13 May 1997. The full details of the company's affairs and the names and addresses of the creditors are also available at the Liquidator's office, 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, on or before 13 May 1997.

**NIXON GILTS LIMITED**  
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)  
COMPANY NUMBER 2669390  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Liquidator of the above company intends to make a distribution to creditors within the meaning of the Insolvency Act 1986. The full details of the company's affairs and the names and addresses of the creditors are available at the registered office of the company, 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, or at the Liquidator's office, 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, on or before 13 May 1997. The full details of the company's affairs and the names and addresses of the creditors are also available at the Liquidator's office, 60, Fleet Street, London, EC4A 3DF, on or before 13 May 1997.

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### CHEMICAL WEAPONS ACT 1996

Amendment No 1 to the Open General Licence, dated 1 January 1997 granted by the Secretary of State  
Coming into force 1 April 1997  
The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Chemical Weapons Act 1996 (c.6), hereby modifies the Open General Licence granted by him on 1 January 1997 as follows:  
1. In Clause 3 after sub-clause (2) there shall be inserted:  
"(3) A person may only import Chemicals from and export Chemicals to another State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction signed at Paris on 13th January 1993.  
(4) If a person has imported a Chemical from a State Party he may only re-export that Chemical to that State Party."

2. In Clause 4(2) the words "to another Member State of the European Community either of the Chemicals numbered (7) and (8) in the Schedule" shall be deleted and replaced by the words "any Chemicals".  
This instrument shall come into force on 1 April 1997.

### LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION  
PLEASE TELEPHONE  
0171-680 6878  
OR  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

10p

THE TIMES

TUESDAY

10p

SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2.

10p

OP

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# LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MANIFESTO

Increase funding for schools ■ Get people back to work ■ Tax pollution ■ Revive sense of community

## EDUCATION

Our first priority is to give children the best start by providing high quality early years education for every 3 and 4 year-old child whose parents want it.

Key priorities are to:

- Increase funding for books and equipment in schools. In the first year, we will double spending on books and equipment to overcome the effect of recent cuts.
- Reduce primary school class sizes so that within 5 years no child between 5 and 11 will need to be in a class of more than 30.
- Tackle the backlog of repair and maintenance to buildings with a £300m additional investment over 5 years.
- Boost chances for all adults to improve their skills and get better qualifications.

Making the best start Early years education is the essential building block for higher standards and achievement later on. Every £1 spent on high quality under-fives education results in an extra £10 of value for the nation's economy. We will:

- Give children the best start by providing high quality early years education for every 3 and 4 year-old child whose parents want it. This will be the first step on our £2 billion annual programme of extra investment in education.
- Promote high standards in early years education. We will set minimum standards for care, curriculum and premises. We will ensure that those in early years education are supervised by qualified staff.
- Provide choice in early years education. We will scrap the bureaucratic voucher scheme.

We will ensure a variety of provision from a wide range of public, private and voluntary providers.

- Raising standards in schools. We will raise standards in schools, especially in literacy and numeracy, which are still far too low.
- Improve teaching standards. We will set up a General Teaching Council, charged with improving teaching standards and making teaching a profession to be proud of again. We will provide more opportunities for professional development and reward excellence in teaching. We will help poor teachers improve, but if they cannot, we will ensure they do not continue to teach.

Encourage schools to succeed. We will strengthen the inspection system so that it helps schools and we will extend inspection to monitoring Local Education Authorities (LEAs).

Strengthen discipline in schools. We will support teachers in maintaining discipline and provide them with the means to do so - for example, by providing better access to special referral units. We will require every school to develop a policy to tackle bullying and truancy. We will launch a national Truancy Watch scheme. We will oblige LEAs to fulfil their responsibilities to educate pupils excluded or suspended from school.

Measure achievement in pupils and schools. We will give every pupil a Personal Record of Achievement which will enable them to build up a set of nationally accredited qualifications and record their other achievements. We will require schools to publish meaningful information on their standards, achievements and plans for the future.

Improve the National Curriculum. We will replace the National Curriculum with a more focused and flexible Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. We will ensure that religious education is taught with an understanding of the major traditions of belief in this country.

Boost literacy. We will establish special literacy programmes involving parents with teachers in a drive to ensure that 90 per cent of all pupils reach their expected reading age by 2005.

Investing in schools Extra investment for well-equipped classrooms and better-trained teachers is essential if standards are to improve. We will:

- Increase funding for books and equipment in schools. In the first year, we will double spending on books and equipment to overcome the effect of recent cuts. A typical primary school of 250 pupils will get an extra £16,000. A typical secondary school of 1,000 pupils will get an extra £100,000.
- Reduce primary school class sizes so that within 5 years no child between 5 and 11 will need to be in a class of more than 30.
- Tackle the backlog of repairs. We will invest an additional £200 million over 5 years in repairing crumbling and unsafe buildings.
- Support children with special needs. We will fully fund the implementation of the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs.

A new partnership for schools Involving parents in the education of their children and ensuring schools are supported by local communities are both essential to achieving higher standards and a better use of resources. We will:

- Increase the role of parents in education. We will extend home-school links to develop home-school partnership arrangements and support parents with information and resources to help them help their child. We will require the schools to provide a service to report on home-school partnerships as part of school inspections. We will promote school councils and guarantee automatic representation on governing bodies to staff and, where appropriate, students.
- Open up schools to the whole community. We will encourage schools to develop courses for parents, build links with local leisure organisations to open up school sports facilities to the community and work with local businesses to provide improved computer education.
- Give all schools more independence and allow them to develop their own styles and strengths. We will devolve as many powers as possible to schools and give them more control over their budgets. We will make clear the valuable role of church schools in the maintained sector. We will initiate a dialogue with all the major faiths about the role they wish to play in education in the future. Where any of the faiths wish to establish publicly funded voluntary schools we will enable them to do so, provided that they enjoy substantial community support, offer acceptable programmes of study, provide equality of opportunity and are able to deliver the Minimum Curriculum Entitlement.
- Forge a new partnership with the independent sector. We will encourage independent schools to work with state

## How you can make the difference

This will be the last election of this century. And one of its most important. We have ducked the challenges that confront our country for too long. It is time to face them. The choice you make will shape Britain's future for the next 50 years. There are no quick fixes, no instant solutions. Eighteen years of Conservative government have left our society divided, our public services run down, our sense of community fractured and our economy underperforming. There is much to be done.

Yet a terrible fatalism seems to grip politicians. Though the challenges are immense, the solutions we are offered are all too often puny. We are told we can't ask people to pay more for a better education. Or change the way we live to protect our environment. Or share more to give better opportunities to those who have less. Or modernise our politics to give people more say. We are in politics not just to manage things

better, but to make things happen. To build a more prosperous, fair and open society. We believe in the market economy as the best way to deliver prosperity and distribute economic benefits. But we recognise that market mechanisms on their own are not enough; that the private sector alone cannot ensure that there are good services for everyone, or promote employment opportunities, or tackle economic inequality, or protect the environment for future generations. We believe in a society in which every citizen shares rights and responsibilities. But, we recognise that a strong country is built from the bottom, not the top; that conformity quickly becomes the enemy of diversity.

Above all, Liberal Democracy is about liberty. That does not just mean freedom from oppressive government. It means providing all citizens with the opportunity to build worthwhile lives for themselves and their families

and helping them to recognise their responsibilities to the wider community. Liberal Democrats believe the role of democratic government is to protect and strengthen liberty, to redress the balance between the powerful and the weak, between rich and poor and between immediate gains and long-term environmental costs. That is the Liberal Democrat vision: of active government which invests in people, promotes their long-term prosperity and welfare, safeguards their security, and is answerable to them for its actions.

Much of what we propose here requires money - only political will. But where extra investment is required we say where it will come from. The purpose of this manifesto is to widen opportunities for all. And its aim is to build a nation of self-reliant individuals, living in strong communities, backed by an enabling government. Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown



Ashdown: no quick fixes

schools. We will phase out the Assisted Places Scheme and use the money saved to enable LEAs, if they wish, to enter into local partnership schemes. These could include assisting the funding of pupils at independent schools. Pupils currently covered by the Assisted Places Scheme would, however, be protected until they finish their studies. We will require independent schools to offer the Minimum Curriculum Entitlement. We will extend charitable status to all schools without affecting total Council funding and maintain the VAT exemption on school fees.

Extending life-long learning In the information age, education must be a life-long activity from which people can benefit anywhere and at any time, rather than being something that only happens in school. We will:

- Widen access to further education. We will give every person an Individual Learning Account as the basis for life-long post-school education with contributions made by the state, individuals and employers. Our aim is that the state contribution will be at least equivalent to the cost of fees on approved courses. We will replace the Student Loans Scheme with a fair repayment scheme linked to salaries in later life. We oppose top-up fees for tuition. Our aim is to ensure that students on approved courses (including part-time courses) up to first degree level are treated equally.
- Promote flexible learning. We will create a higher standard credit-based system for all post-secondary education, including A-levels and degree courses. We will work with the private sector to link all schools to the Information Super Highway and ensure that they have the equipment and skills to take advantage of this.
- Promote training in the workplace. To support companies that invest in education and training, and to encourage others to do so, we will introduce a 2 per cent remittance levy on company payrolls. This would be deductible against the cost of providing accredited training or making contributions to the Individual Learning Account. Small businesses will be exempt. We will give Training and Enterprise Councils the leading role in forging local partnerships to meet youth training and employment needs.
- Expand training opportunities for young people. Our aim is to ensure that 16-19 year-olds receive the equivalent of at least 2 days a week education or on-the-job training.
- Promote training for all adults to improve their skills and get better qualifications. We will ensure that all adults on approved courses or training have access to financial support, either through their Individual Learning Accounts or from their employer.
- Improve the quality of tertiary courses. We will create a new Quality Council to ensure high standards and value for money in all post-16 education and training.
- Secure academic freedom. We will ensure the funding of university teaching and research, safeguard academic freedom and standards.

Investing in enterprise Small business, enterprise and self-employment are the engine of a modern dynamic economy and a vital source of new jobs and growth. We will:

- Support small and medium-sized businesses. We will encourage the banks to develop new sources of private finance, including grants, to support small and medium-sized businesses. We will seek to expand the sources of "seed-core" capital. We will legislate for a statutory right to interest on late debt payments. We will require the banks to develop new codes of banking practice for small businesses. We will cut red tape, for example by stopping European institutions interfering where they shouldn't and by preventing Whitehall departments "gold-plating" European regulations with extra rules. We will, in the long term, abolish the Uniform Business Rate and bring in a new, fairer local rating system. We will ensure that government purchasing gives special emphasis and easier access to small and medium-sized firms.
- Boost regional and local economies. We will set up regionally-based Development Agencies to build new partnerships between small businesses, local Councils, Business Links, TECs and local Chambers of Commerce. We will encourage local business to come together to provide "one-stop shops". We will enable councils to raise capital for local infrastructure investment, where they work in partnership with the private sector. We will encourage industrial development from the earliest stages.
- Invest in research and innovation. We will expand support for science and research by shifting government funds away from military research and development and into science and research, and improve specialist research facilities for industry. We will encourage regional technology transfer centres to bring together the resources of industry, universities and government laboratories.
- Promote tourism. We will bring together the marketing and infrastructure work of government, local Councils and tourist boards. We will ensure that local communities are involved in the planning of tourist developments from the earliest stages.
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- Promote British exports. We will make export promotion and commercial activity a top priority for British Embassies. Making Britain more competitive.
- Making Britain more competitive. A competitive domestic economy is essential if British companies are to succeed in the global market. We will:

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- Protect the local environment. We will pass stronger laws to conserve the countryside. We will cut road congestion and help local Councils make Britain's towns and cities healthier and clearer places to live.
- Improve the way environment policy is made. Environment policy is currently buried, with housing and local government, in a huge single Government Department. We will put environment and energy policy within a separate, new department and ensure that all government departments and agencies pursue environmental objectives.

Our priorities are:

- Put 3,000 more police officers on the beat.
- Build more affordable and secure housing.
- End, by the year 2000, the scandal of people being forced to sleep rough on the streets.
- Revive Britain's sense of community.

Our priorities are:

- Put 3,000 more police officers on the beat.
- Build more affordable and secure housing.
-







**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## Gokal to face BCCI civil suit

Liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will this week resume civil proceedings against Abbas Gokal, the disgraced shipping tycoon, in their efforts to recover funds for depositors.

Gokal, 61, was convicted of fraud and false accounting involving \$1.2 billion, and will be sentenced next month. Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche, the joint liquidator, intends to press on with civil action against him. Further proceedings are pending in Pakistan against Gokal's defunct shipping company, the Gulf Group.

The liquidators believe Gokal may have assets worth £20 million, including a home in Ealing, West London, held through nominee companies.

## High hopes

Managers of small and medium-sized companies in Britain and Spain are confident about their economic prospects, while their counterparts in France, Germany and Italy remain pessimistic. According to the 31 European Enterprise Centre survey out today, managers of British and Spanish companies expect to take on more staff in the year ahead and see higher turnover and profit.

## Strong pressure

Pressure from non-executive directors on Liam Strong, chief executive of the ailing Sears retail group, is likely to intensify at a board meeting today after disappointing news from the Selfridges, Freemans and Adams group. So far Mr Strong has been stoutly defended by Sir Bob Reid, the chairman.

## Lost millions

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG) has confirmed that it lost several million pounds — described as “minimal” — from trades by the bank's New York operation as a result of a difference of opinion over valuation in equity derivatives.

## Low pay deals

Average pay deals in the engineering industry in the three months to February were at their lowest for two years, at 3.08 per cent, according to a survey of more than 400 firms from the Engineering Employers' Federation.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

# Tesco tipped to hit rivals for six with 10 per cent profit rise



Terry Leahy is expected to field an impressive set of figures for Tesco tomorrow

TESCO: Full-year figures tomorrow should confirm the group's position as Britain's premier food retailer as Terry Leahy settles into the chief executive's chair. A recent industry survey indicated Tesco was continuing to grab market share at the expense of its closest rival, J. Sainsbury.

NatWest Securities is looking for a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £680.7 million last year, to around £750 million, producing an 8 per cent increase in earnings per share to 23.7p. Overall sales are thought to have risen about 14 per cent to £13.7 billion with like-for-like sales up a healthy 7.5 per cent, two points above the industry average. Any fall in prices will have been more than offset by improved sales volumes of 5 per cent generated by Clubcard and Christmas promotions. A healthy increase in petrol margins is likely to trim an overall reduction in margins.

The move into financial services is likely to result in start-up costs of £15 million next year and in 1999, but NatWest continues to look for a final figure in the current year of £815 million. A 9 per cent increase in the payout to £0.5p is envisaged.

MANCHESTER UNITED: The Premiership side's Old Trafford stadium is filled to its 55,000 capacity every home game now that the new stand has been completed. That increase in gate revenue should be clearly reflected in half-year figures today, with pre-tax profits before transfers ranging from £16 million to £18 million, compared with £11 million last time. The figures are usually heavily weighted towards the first half, which covers the main football season. Even so, brokers are looking for full-year profits of £27.5 million against £16.7 million last time.

TARMAC: Brokers will be keeping a close eye on the group's progress after the

asset swap with rival George Wimpey. Signs of improved efficiency will be required when the group unveils full-year figures tomorrow, although this is unlikely to be reflected in the profit numbers.

At the pre-tax level profits are expected to tumble almost 40 per cent from £97.1 million to £60 million, with earnings down from 7.5p to 4.5p. On the plus side, the aggregates arm of the business should reveal firm volumes, with prices in Britain up between 6 per cent and 8 per cent, explaining why many investors have been happy to play Tarmac as a recovery situation.

In the US profits will be up with the help of a combination of higher prices and volumes and reduced costs. Professional services may have traded in the red, while contracting should produce a small improvement. The dividend is likely to be pegged at 5.5p.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES: There will be keen interest in half-year figures tomorrow, with brokers anxious to see how Macallan Glenlivet is settling in after last year's acquisition.

Profits at the pre-tax level will be up 17 per cent from £22.2 million to £26 million, boosted by a first-time contri-

bution from Macallan, which makes around 60 per cent of its profits during the period covering Christmas. As a result, Macallan will have enhanced earnings during the first half, but is likely to dilute earnings for the year as a whole.

Both the price and sales of its Famous Grouse brand have declined marginally during the past three years, largely because of aggressive pricing tactics by rivals Bell's and Teacher's. The market will want to be reassured that the change of ownership has not disrupted the strong growth enjoyed by Macallan in recent years.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: A strong performance from the group is expected by brokers when it unveils half-year figures on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits of around £80 million have been pencilled in, compared with £69.5 million last time. That is likely to produce earnings per share up from 15.4p to 17.4p.

Much of that growth is expected to come from aerospace, which continues to enjoy a revival of fortune worldwide. Smiths will have benefited from increased production quotas for the Boeing 737 and 777 series of which more than 1,000 are on order. This trend is expected to continue over the next few years with increased volumes pushing up margins.

In addition, medical systems is expected to provide double-digit growth, while the return on investments is likely to be around 13 per cent. The payout should grow 14 per cent from 5.6p to 6.4p.

RMC GROUP: The German recession is likely to cast a long shadow over the full-year figures on Thursday, with most brokers looking for a sharp downturn in profitability. Current estimates range from £260 million to £275 million, compared with £329.3 million last time. That is a downturn of almost 20 per cent. Earnings per share will be down 21 per cent from 77.5p to 61.1p.

The group is thought to have turned in a solid performance in Britain, underpinned by the upturn in housing starts during the second half of the year. This will have spilled over into other areas of the business such as aggregates, blocks, concrete products and blacktop.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## City looks for pointers on interest rates

Economic statistics are likely to take a back seat for the next couple of weeks, now that the election campaign is in full flow, with the markets most concerned with pointers for the interest rate outlook in the summer.

The monthly monetary meeting on Thursday is expected to be purely academic, unless Kenneth Clarke makes a surprising bid for a place in history by becoming the first Chancellor to raise rates in the middle of an election campaign. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, is expected to use the occasion as a warm-up for the more important May meeting, when the Bank is likely to press the incoming Chancellor for an immediate rate rise.

The industrial production figures, published on Wednesday, are expected to show that the manufacturing sector remains relatively weak, with the rising pound beginning to take its toll of export output. MMS, the economic forecast

group, predicts that manufacturing production will fall 0.1 per cent in February with the annual rate declining from 1.6 per cent to 1.4 per cent.

In the US, Wall Street will be nervously watching the retail sales figures for March, due to be released on Friday. Evidence of further strong demand growth will harden the view that the Federal Reserve will tighten rates further in the coming months. MMS predicts retail sales will grow strongly again, rising 0.8 per cent in March. But factory-gate prices are predicted to remain subdued with no change in March expected for the producer prices index.

The German Government should be able to take some relief from the latest unemployment figures from Germany, due out tomorrow. Unemployment is predicted to fall by around 30,000 from its record high — the first decline for almost a year.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

### TODAY

Interims: Manchester United, MY Holdings. Finals: Burnham, Castrol, CFS Group, DCS Group, Goldsmiths Group, Intermediate Capital Group, Moss Bros Group, Thompson Clive Investment, Trafficmaster, Economic statistics: G10 central bank governors' committee meeting at Bank for International Settlements.

### TOMORROW

Interims: James Halstead Group, Highland Distilleries, London & St Lawrence. Finals: Brands Hatch Leisure, Cassell, Horace Clarkson, Dewhirst Group, Golden Vale, IBC Group, Oasis Stores, QS Holdings, RJB Mining, Tarmac, Tesco, Vymura, Yorkyde.

### WEDNESDAY

Interims: Dowding & Mills, Smiths Industries. Finals: Abbott Group, Cavendish Group, Friendly Hotels, Highcroft Investment Trust, Lamont Holdings, Martin International, SENTRY Farming, Economic statistics: February industrial production, manufacturing output, February housing starts and completions.

### THURSDAY

Interims: Wyefield. Finals: CIA Group, French Connection, RMC Group, Economic statistics: Kenneth Clarke/Eddie George monthly monetary policy meeting; February new construction orders; SMMT March new car registrations.

### FRIDAY

Interims: Cirquel. Finals: None scheduled.

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Smiths Industries, Medeva and J Saville Gordon; Hold LucasVarity, Burmah Castrol and Roxsupur. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Flextech, Cassell and Rackwood Minerals. Mail on Sunday: Buy Maid and Pemberton. Sunday Business: Buy Glynwed International, Chemring.

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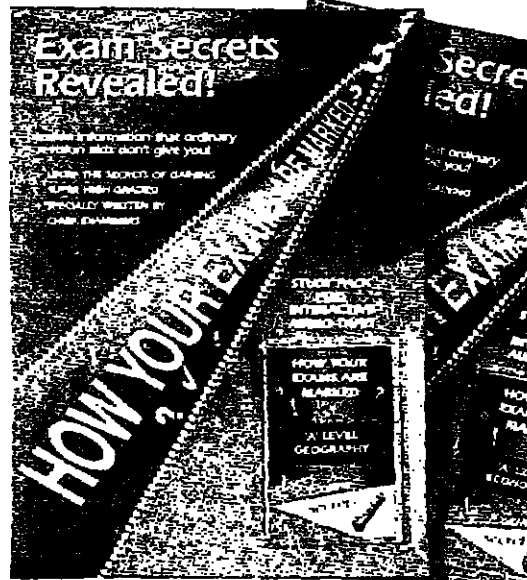
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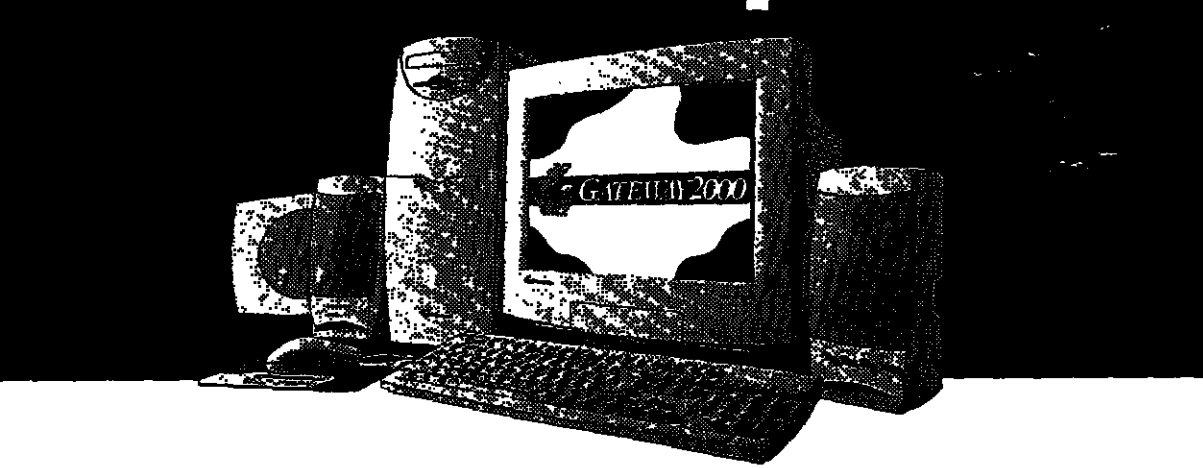
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CHANGING TIMES

# Election Special



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How can a government that is presiding over such a strong economic performance be so far behind in the opinion polls? The answer tells us something about past failure, but even more about past success.

Perhaps the voters do not feel as well off as the current economic statistics imply they should? The Eighties were a sustained consumer boom whereas the current consumer strength comes after a period of comparative restraint.

The average growth of consumption in the five years 1984-88 was just over 5 per cent. The equivalent figure for 1992-96 is 2 per cent. And, of course, an average is an average. There are plenty of individuals who are not able to join in the spending spree, still weighed down by the effects of the recession.

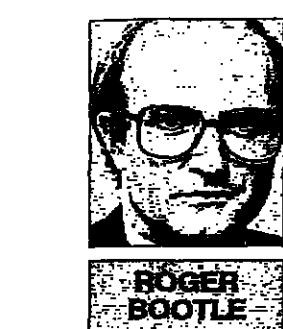
But economics is not only about statistics. The expression "consumer confidence" says it all. When it comes to people, how they feel about their situation is critical. The well-attested feelings of job insecurity, whether justified or not, are surely weighing on voters' conception of how well off they are.

## Tories are victims of their own success

Moreover, illusions can also play a part. People may be feeling worse off than they really are because they are missing inflation. Not the price rises, of course, but the big pay rises and surging house prices. In the past few months, they have again enjoyed this elixir, but the doses are well down on previously accustomed levels.

Inflation gets into the psyche. The inflationary culture may remain unaffected long after the inflation rate has fallen. Whatever economists say about real values, a 3 or 4 per cent pay rise does not feel like justification for a celebratory dinner, while a 7 or 8 per cent increase in property prices does not allow you to reckon that your house earned you more than your

job, or to fantasise about early retirement. To the extent that the Conservatives are suffering in the polls because of low inflation they are the victims of their own success. This is also true in a deeper sense. For the best part of two decades now, they have told us not to expect economic salvation from the State, but rather to look to our own efforts. Unemployment soaring? Not the Government's fault, we were told. Unions should moderate their pay demands and then more jobs would appear. And for those caught without a job while they waited for unions to moderate their demands, the message was even clearer — "get on your bike". Company profits under pressure? Not the Government's affair. "Cut your costs and manage your business properly."



In the end, individuals and companies got the message, and economic success ensued. Now the Government wishes to claim that success for itself. But people know that they have won it by their own efforts not as the result of some government handout, or even some masterminded official decision.

strong economic recovery, accompanied by low inflation and low interest rates, was facilitated by our exit from the ERM. They also know that, far from this being the result of carefully laid plans, it came despite the Government's best efforts to stay in.

In their expectation of credit for recent economic performance, the Conservatives are showing that they have not fully learnt their own lessons. Before they began their programme of withdrawal from economic management, under both parties the State was deeply involved in nearly all major economic decisions. Not only did it claim to operate the macroeconomic levers so as to ensure full employment, but through ownership of the nationalised industries it influenced key decisions on the level and type of investment, employment and prices. It also

exerted considerable influence over pay and prices even in the private sector, through various sorts of prices and incomes policy, and through its continuous efforts to mollify the trade unions.

Meanwhile, economic relations with the rest of the world were conducted through an exchange rate set and maintained by the State. Moreover, if a company wanted to invest abroad, the State controlled its access to funds. If you wanted to go on holiday, the State told you how much spending money you could take in foreign currency.

Scarce wonder, then, in this environment, if your company hit bad times, or even if it needed finance to prepare for good times, you asked the State for help.

For an economy run like this, performance is surely down to the Government. But this is precisely

the sort of economy that the Conservatives sought to break away from. And they succeeded. That's why they do not get the credit for current prosperity. In a sense — of which they should feel proud — they don't deserve it.

Nevertheless, surely the Conservatives do deserve credit for shrinking the economic role of the State and encouraging markets in the first place? But so great has been their success in the battle of ideas that this is now the new cross-party consensus. What's more, the voters now take it for granted. Consequently, economic competence is no longer an election winner. The business of politics can now revolve around other issues — just as it used to in the 19th century.

It is rather like Winston Churchill's failure to win the general election in 1945. It was not that voters did not appreciate what he had done to win the war, but rather that politics had moved on. With the war won, the issue was what to do with the peace.

## ScotPower in dispute over assets of Manweb

By CARL MORTIMER

SCOTSPower's auditor has qualified its opinion of the 1996 regulatory accounts of Manweb, the regional electricity company acquired by ScotSpower in a contested £1.1 billion takeover in 1995.

Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, has taken issue with ScotSpower's decision not to write down the value of Manweb's distribution assets.

According to the accountants, the assets are overstated by £264 million in the current cost accounts and should have been written down, a change which would have left Manweb with an operating loss of £196 million for the year to March 31, 1996.

The disagreement highlights the problem facing BG, which has been warned by its auditor, Price Waterhouse, that it may have to write down the assets of TransCo by billions of pounds if the Monopolies and Mergers Commission adopts the much lower Oligas valuation of the pipeline system.

The accounting debate puts a spotlight on the gas regulator's decision to base her valuation of TransCo on the price at which the shareholders invested in the business rather than the cost of replacing the assets. The MMC is due to hand its report to the DTI in the coming weeks.

The dispute over

Manweb's asset value arose after the takeover and the need to attribute a fair value to Manweb's assets.

This was set at £594 million, a figure which is equivalent to the asset value used by the regulator in establishing a pricing formula for Manweb but is lower than the net current replacement cost of £858 million.

The latter figure is arrived at by applying an inflation index to the historic cost of the assets. According to current cost accounting rules, the assets must be stated at the lower of net current replacement cost and recoverable amount.

The issue facing the utilities is even more thorny because under current cost rules Manweb's depreciation charge would remain high even had it written down the assets. The current cost convention requires a company to assess depreciation on the full cost of rebuilding the asset base today.

ScotSpower said that it chose not to write down the assets in the regulatory accounts because these current cost accounts are used largely for comparative purposes and the other regional electricity companies (Recs) had not written down their assets. "It is easier to compare, if all the ReCs are doing the same," a spokesman said.

## Brown, Shipley to resign as AIM adviser

BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO, the merchant bank, will today resign as an adviser to companies on the Alternative Investment Market after its entire AIM team left to join larger companies (Fraser Nelson writes).

The bank is the first adviser to fall foul of the Stock Ex-

change requirement that nominated advisers have at least four staff qualified to work with AIM companies. As a result, it has lost its 12 clients, including Mulberry

Group and newly floated Sanctuary Music. Most have found new advisers and none is expected to lose its listing. Alpha Omikron last week became the third company to

be ejected from the AIM after it failed to find a replacement for Henderson Crosthwaite, which resigned as its adviser. The events caused concern that Stock Exchange rules

give companies too little time to appoint successors if dropped by nominated advisers. Many of Brown's clients were able to ask their broker to double as adviser, but they

too would have been banished from the market if unable to find a successor within two months.

The junior exchange did slightly better than the main list under the global market downturn last week, with the FT-SE AIM index down 1.94 per cent to 1,087.80.

BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO. (continued)									
1997	Low	High	Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E	1997	Low
139	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
140	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
141	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
142	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
143	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
144	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
145	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
146	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
147	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
148	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
149	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
150	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
151	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
152	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
153	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
154	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
155	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
156	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
157	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
158	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
159	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
160	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
161	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
162	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
163	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
164	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
165	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
166	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
167	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
168	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
169	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
170	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
171	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
172	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
173	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
174	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
175	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
176	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
177	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
178	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
179	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
180	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
181	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
182	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
183	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
184	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
185	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
186	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
187	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
188	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
189	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
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191	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
192	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
193	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
194	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
195	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
196	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
197	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
198	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
199	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52
200	100	102	10.20 AFA Systems	102	-10	5.1	10.9	69	52

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Finland Mk	Swiss	Spain Ptas	Swiss
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# Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin

How long it has been since we had a drama that hinged on a commode? A while, I'll warrant. And not just any commode, this was a commode meticulously and consistently shorn of its defining article... well, most of it anyway. This was *Roommate*.

"Did you put her on roommate?" asked somebody important at Skelthwaite Medical Centre, as episode one of *Where the Heart Is* (ITV) reached a climax that for one had not been expecting. "Aye, I put her on roommate," said District Nurse Peggy Snow, played by Pam Ferris, who already caused a stir by wearing a track suit. But I'm straying: back to roommate.

"Did Mrs Hutton ask to be put on roommate?" demanded important person. Now, this was unlikely as Mrs Hutton was dying a horrible death at the time and roommate was probably the last

thing on her mind. At least I hope it was — too awful to think that her very last thought on earth was "I must go to roommate." Her husband, however, did have an inkling that this might be an old district nurse trick to hasten the end of the terminally ill. "Why are you putting her on roommate?" There was a brief but fatal pause (it's all right, there was a brief but heavily pregnant pause just seconds later. Lie goes on you know). *Roommate* had done trick.

Somewhere, I suspect, there is already a tape of out-takes from this very northern drama, with the likes of Ferris and her co-star Sarah Lancashire apologising to each other in their best theatrical tones: "Sorry darling, afraid I said the. Can we go again?" Aye, 'appen we can.

Accents apart, the series is a fairly cynical amalgam of others that have gone before — the storylines of *Peak Practice*, the scenery

of *All Creatures Great and Small* and the uniforms and sensible shoes of *The District Nurse*. But Ferris is as good as ever (Lancashire spent most of last night's episode giving birth, so it is difficult to judge her contribution), is ably assisted by Tony Haygarth as her husband; and if the supporting performances are up to the standard set by Andrew Readman ("I know what you did, you put my mother on roommate") then it could be around for a lot longer than six episodes.

Another triumph of drama over dialogue was *The Ice House* (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). Hugely distinguished cast, hugely expensive-looking production values but every now and then a line so awful you couldn't believe anybody had actually uttered it. "You know what it reminds me of?" mused the charming Chief Inspector Walsh (Corin

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Rodgrave working hard, but still sounding very like Chief Inspector Wedmore) as he surveyed the decomposed body. "The bones on a breast of lamb... after my wife has skinned the meat off... with a sharp knife."

But I think my favourite was "walk through the main house until you reach the West wing" a line which gloriously celebrated the fact that while country houses

such as Streech Grange may be chock full of lesbians these days, some things in murder mysteries never change. Like the pub falling silent when somebody new walks in. Honestly it did, twice.

What saved it from being total hokum (never can so many small patches of lawn for so long) was the quality of the acting and the unlikely but engaging attraction between Anne Catrell (Kitty Aldridge) and DS McLoughlin (Daniel Craig). Catrell turned out only to be pretending to be a lesbian, which left me a little confused as to what she was doing at the Grange in the first place, but was terribly convenient if you were a newly separated detective sergeant who fancied her.

Last night's denouement was, quite properly, in the drawing room, with all manner of potential suspects arriving, as tradition dictates, through the French win-

dows. Once the rather complex plot had been explained to them all, that just left a neat little twist in the wine cellar and a handful of loose ends. Such as, why did nobody fancy Frances Barber?

Saturday night saw Gaby Roslin do just about enough to rescue her career with *Whatever You Want* (BBC1). It was deeply unambitious, totally harmless and a modest amount of fun. Another way of putting it would be *Jim'll Fix It* but without the bathos... most of it, anyway. Drawing on her considerable reserves of sincerity, enthusiasm and niceness, Roslin fixed it for a grown-up to go swimming with dolphins, an unsuccessful under-11s football team to go training with Bobby Robson in Barcelona (I hope she also fixed it for Robson to keep his job long enough) and for an excited teenager to step out with teen heart-throb, Sean

McGuire. But the best part — or certainly the spookiest part — was the opening contest between three forthright girls who desperately wanted to be famous. It was won by a girl who could have been Roslin's twin sister. Scary, huh?

Finally, *Family Money* (Channel 4) came to a bizarre end, hampered — as it was from the start — by two things. First was the channel's blinkered decision to put it out against established audience-pullers on both ITV and BBC1 and second was a curious lack of narrative tension. There were all these wonderful characters (I shall miss Delia and Ela particularly), all these wonderful actors giving splendid performances, but almost no story (or certainly none interesting enough) to take us from one week to the next. The house story petered out, the murder story petered out and eventually Fran (Claire Bloom) petered off to Islamabad. As I say, bizarre.

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (11533)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (16981)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8196755)
- 9.20 Style Challenge (3607620)
- 9.45 Killy (T) (2242668)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51991)
- 11.00 News (T) and weather (8458303)
- 11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (5228194)
- 11.35 Change That (655968)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (4452571)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5004200)
- 12.35 Live and Living Presented by Jane Asher (8355571)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (26378)
- 1.30 Regional News (5047255)
- 1.45 The Weather Show (3963622)
- 1.50 Neighbours (T) (22890910)
- 2.15 Quinny (390582)
- 3.00 Through the Keyhole New series with David Frost (2129)
- 3.30 Playdays (T) (6140281) 3.50 The New Yogi Berra Show (677939) 3.55 Bodger and Badger (T) (6308658) 4.10 Casper. New series (8230571) 4.35 50/50 New game show for two teams of 50 from schools across the country (T) (7562571) 5.00 Newsround (T) (5213620) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (9835561)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (69575)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (910)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (T) (262)
- 7.00 Ant & Pops' Favourites New series. Steve Wright returns to the BBC's most popular programmes and celebrities (T) (4910)
- 7.30 Here and Now A police task force set up to tackle the growing multimillion-pound trade in counterfeit luxury goods. John Walters searches for Britain's champion quiz show contestant. (T) (674)
- 8.00 EastEnders Tony puts the past behind him and makes a last start at the Watford Gazette (T) (3858)
- 8.30 Panorama: The Leader Interview In the first of four live election programmes, the Labour Party leader, Tony Blair, is interviewed by David Dimbleby (T) (9488)
- 9.00 News (T) regional news and weather (1537)
- 10.00 Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford, Sean Bean, Anne Archer and Patrick Bergin. A former CIA agent on holiday in Britain foils an IRA attack on a member of the Royal Family, killing one of the terrorists in the process, and soon finds himself caught in a deadly game of cat-and-mouse. Directed by Philip Noyce (T) (68842)
- 11.50 Film 97 with Barry Norman includes reviews of *The People vs Larry Flynt*, *Fever Pitch*, based on Nick Hornby's book, and *Turbulence* Woody Allen talks about his first musical, *Everyone Says I Love You* (T) (731991)
- 12.20am *They Call Me Mister Tibbet* (1970) Sidney Poitier reprises his role in the *Heat of the Night* role as Detective Virgil Tibbet, this time investigating the murder of a prostitute and trying to clear a close friend of the crime. Directed by Gordon Douglas (T) (195934)
- 2.05 Weather (336885)

- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with the programme you wish to watch. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record.

- 12.25am Weather (3465427)
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### BBC2

- 6.00am Learning to Learn (2482281) 6.25 Open University Science Skills (2574216) 6.50 A School for Our Times? (2725213) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (8286194) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (4377649) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (5862823) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys (T) (3354842) 8.35 The Raccons (T) (950281) 9.00 Cartoon (2213587) 9.10 Enchanted Tales (T) (8815939) 10.00 Teletubbies (56741) 10.30 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (T) (3389019) 11.15 Alas Smith and Jones (T) (3178246) 12.05pm The Flintstones (T) (9545465) 12.30 Working Lunch (69705) 2.40 Secret Life of Toys (T) (12544718) 1.15 Mr Zogg's Clothes (T) (2261868)

- 1.25 The Letter (1940, b/w) with Bette Davis, Herbert Marshall and James Stephenson. A woman shoots an alleged intruder on her husband's rubber plantation, but incriminating evidence soon emerges that suggests it may in fact have been a cold-blooded murder. Directed by William Wyler (74489674)

- 3.00 News (T) (7756688) 3.05 The Natural World: Argentina (T) (T) (9559303) 3.55 News (T) (T) (9559303) 4.00 Blockbusters (857128) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (850216) 4.55 Esther. The future of marriage (955649) 5.30 Today's Day (909)

- 6.00 The Simpsons (T) (885804)
- 6.25 Space Precinct (T) (T) (71937)
- 7.10 Electric Circus With the actor Mark Hamill (395246)
- 7.30 The Sci Files How the ambitious Human Genome Project to map every gene in the world has fallen foul of commercial pressures (216)
- 7.58 Video Nation Election Shorts (49649)
- 8.00 Top Gear Motorsport The Portuguese leg of the World Rally Championship (T) (1200)
- 8.30 The Antiques Show (1/8) Francine Short visits every thing from car boot sales to major London auctions, while dealer David Dickinson provides invaluable tips on snapping up bargains (T) (7007)
- 9.00 The Outer Limits Sci-fi drama (T) (829484)

- 9.45 This Life Miles advertises in a lonely hearts column (T) (911945)
- 10.30 Newsnight (T) (47194)
- 11.30 The Kingdom (3/5) Offbeat hospital drama. In Danish with English subtitles (71216)
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### HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (685621) 6.25 Chain Letters (T) (2622939) 9.55 Regional News (T) (2741026) 10.00 The Time, the Place (56787) 10.30 This Morning (T) (6127587) 12.20pm Regional News (T) (4458755) 12.30 News (T) (9838668) 12.55 Special Report Three teenagers recount their personal battles against cancer (9919587)

- 1.25 Home and Away (T) (6408262) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (1475552) 2.40 Savannah (T) (9242262) 3.20 News (T) (7836858) 3.25 Regional News (T) (7835129) 3.30 Telly TV (T) (8209939) 3.40 Caribou Kitchen (9550194) 3.50 Donald Duck (6155113) 4.10 Sooty's Amazing Adventures (9118736) 4.20 Snap (T) (8875571) 4.50 The Big Bang. New series, more magic and things to make (T) (1739620)

- 5.10 Sorted Discussion programme aimed at teenagers (1895939) 5.40 News (T) and weather (83533) 6.00 Home and Away (T) (785858) 6.25 HTV Weather (958939) 6.30 HTV News (T) (858)

- 7.00 Wish You Were Here? Ann Bryson cruises around the Far East. Judith Chalmers visits Nerja in Spain, a quiet spot on the Costa del Sol; and Julian Ballynne tries out an activity holiday in Perthshire (T) (6378)
- 7.30 Coronation Street Will Derek make it to Mavis's birthday party? (T) (84)
- 8.00 World In Action An investigation of the pensions industry (T) (5026)

- 8.30 Kavanagh QC: The Ties that Bind Kavanagh battles on behalf of a young man brutally killed, in a rare private prosecution for murder. With John Thaw and Eddie Marsan (T) (82692)
- 10.00 News (T) and weather (78658) 10.30 Regional News (T) (331755) 10.40 The West Story Families speak about the long-term effects of bullying (842910) 11.10 Who's Harry Crumb (1989) with John Candy, Jeffrey Jones and Anne Parillo. An incompetent detective tries to track down a kidnapper. Directed by Paul Flaherty (960738)
- 12.35am Football Extra (3239601) 1.25 Mainly Men (7854779) 1.55 Planet Rock Profiles (3226175) 2.25 Club Nation (T) (528271) 3.25 God's Gift (T) (4723040) 4.20 Sound Bites (4943798) 4.30 World In Action (T) (42330) 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (T) (11972) 5.30 News (82669)

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## AIMING HIGH 46

Airbus seeks partners for superjumbo

# BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 7 1997

## COMPANIES 43

Tesco profits tipped to hit rivals for six



## Astra to offer emergency satellite for digital TV

By ERIC REGULY

SES, the Luxembourg company that owns the Astra satellites, has told BSkyB that its plans for digital television need not be jeopardised by the delay in launching the satellite that was to transmit the new channels.

The start of digital is now more likely to depend on the formation of a joint company designed to finance

the set-top boxes that viewers will need to get access to the channels.

BSkyB learned recently that the Astra 2A satellite, made by the Hughes Corporation of the United States, will not be put into orbit until October, two months later than scheduled, meaning that it will not become operational until December at the earliest. BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, has said

that it wants to start the channels in the autumn.

SES, whose shareholders include Pearson, owner of the Financial Times, said it will find capacity on other Astra satellites if BSkyB wants to go ahead before December. The Astra 1G satellite, to be launched in early August, could provide a temporary home. An SES spokesman said: "It is Sky's intention to launch its digital package before the

end of the year, and the 2A delay will not interfere in that."

The 200 or so digital channels will give viewers an unprecedented viewing choice, from continuously shown films to pay-per-view sporting events. BSkyB customers will require a digital set-top box, which is expected to sell for about £200 in high street electronics outlets. BSkyB has not ordered the one million set-top boxes and is unlikely

to do so until it completes the negotiations to create the £600 million Interactive Services Company, or Isco.

Isco is being formed to subsidise the price of the set-top boxes. In exchange, its probable investors — BSkyB, British Telecom, Midland Bank and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company that owns the Panasonic brand — are to share in the income generated by the interac-

tive services made possible by the boxes. BT would not comment on the negotiations, which are thought to be moving slowly. BSkyB would say only that Isco's formation "is closer than you think".

BT is expected to be the largest Isco investor. It could profit from Isco by supplying phone connections that would allow subscribers to communicate with providers of home banking and home shopping services.

## US opens way for cheaper Zantac

By ROBERT MILLER

THE cost of Zantac, the world's bestselling prescription ulcer drug, could fall by up to 50 per cent this summer after a US Court of Appeals ruling.

Novopharm, the Canadian-owned pharmaceutical company, was given the go-ahead this week-end to sell a generic equivalent of Zantac, which has worldwide annual sales worth more than \$2 billion, in late July.

Glaxo Wellcome, the rival pharmaceutical group, holds two US patents for manufacturing Zantac, known professionally as ranitidine hydrochloride. The patent for Form 1 was due to expire in December 1995 but this was prolonged by a 20-month patent extension granted under Gatt guidelines.

The patent for Form 2 expires in 2002. In the US court case Glaxo Wellcome claimed that by producing Form 1 when it ran out of patent Novopharm would infringe on Form 2.

In a 23-page ruling the US Appeals Court upheld an earlier district court ruling. It added: "Glaxo failed to prove infringement by a preponderance of evidence."

Jacques Messier, president and chief operating officer of Novopharm, which specialises in making "generic" drugs, said yesterday: "The patent for Zantac's Form 1 runs out on July 25 and on July 26 our product will be there. In such cases we sell products that are anywhere between 30 to 50 per cent less expensive."

Glaxo Wellcome said yesterday that it had already factored in the cost of generic competition for Zantac. Last month the group said US sales of the drug could fall by up to 80 per cent in the year starting July 26. This forecast was a worst-case scenario, however. US sales of Zantac last year declined 14 per cent to £1 billion, equivalent to 54 per cent of the drug's global sales and 23 per cent of Glaxo's overall revenue.

## Labour ready to carry out Revenue sale

By JASON NISSE

THE Labour Party is planning to go ahead with a government scheme to sell off the Inland Revenue's 450 offices, which occupy 14 million square feet of office space, in a £2.5 billion privatisation.

Deloitte & Touche, the accountant, is close to completing an evaluation of the project, which will be structured in a similar way to the sales of the Department of Social Security estate, due to be completed in July.

Several bidders — including Nomura, the Japanese house that led the £1.6 billion deal to buy the Ministry of Defence married quarters — have already expressed interest in the Revenue sale. This could bring an immediate £500 million into the Exchequer and be worth as much as £2 billion over the next 20 years.

The Revenue confirmed that an evaluation process is going on but said no decision would be taken until the second half of this year.

A Revenue sell-off could lead to further property privatisations under Labour, including a review of the property needs of the Foreign Office. This would include selling off some British embassies and moving to less expensive accommodation. For instance, in Bangkok the em-

bassy occupies 11 acres of prime development land thought to be worth at least £100 million.

The DSS privatisation, called DSS Prime, was supposed to be completed this spring, but has been put on hold until after the election. The two remaining bidders are both led by American banks: Goldman Sachs and Nationsbank. They are to put in final offers at the end of May, with a decision made by mid-July.

It is expected that Labour will go ahead with Prime, so long as it considers the bids to be high enough. Harriet Harman, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, told The Times: "We are not opposed to public and private sector partnerships so long as they are in the public interest."

The Prime deal will bring an immediate payment of £250 million and generate savings of as much as £100 million a year for the next 20 years. The DSS occupies 700 sites and 18 million square feet of space around the country.

Although the Revenue estate is four million square feet smaller, it is considered much more valuable because a third of the estate is freehold and includes many attractive offices, such as its headquarters at Somerset House in central

London. Property experts believe that the Government may be able to demand an upfront payment of £500 million from any purchaser and will look for savings at least as high as those generated by Prime.

The Prime project is deemed part of the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and was born out of the idea that the private sector is much better than the public sector at managing property.

Mike Kerr, a Deloitte partner working on Prime, said: "Government departments find it very difficult to look ahead. When offices become vacant it has been found that government departments take much longer to get rid of the excess space than private companies."

The decision to back Prime and the Revenue sell-off represents an element of vote-buying by the Labour Party, which had been critical of the policy of selling properties occupied by government departments to the private sector. In particular, Labour attacked the sale of the MoD married quarters.

The MoD remains the largest government landowner, with an estate which includes millions of square feet of offices and large tranches of land in the west and south of England, Scotland and Germany. A project to value the MoD estate was started last year but is many months from completion.



Gordon Campbell, left, and Trevor Evans examine fabrics made from Tencel, developed by chemical engineers

## Appliance of virtual science

GORDON CAMPBELL, president-elect of the Institute of Chemical Engineers, and Trevor Evans, its chief executive, today mark the institute's 75th anniversary by launching a report calling for an electronically linked, multi-disciplinary "virtual research school".

The new kind of school would be designed to speed co-operative research and bring to competitive markets innovative products, such as colourful fabrics made from the Tencel fibre developed by chemists for Courtaulds, the chemicals group where Mr Campbell is chief executive.

## City expects rise in rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE CITY is bracing itself for a sharp rise in interest rates after the general election, with some economists predicting that rates will now need to rise as high as 8 per cent to head off inflationary pressures.

Roger Young, director-general of the Institute of Management, says that economic confidence is turning into over-confidence and that there are clear signs inflation is about to "raise its ugly head".

Mr Young's comments come as the Institute of Management publishes a report

showing some evidence of inflation feeding into the economy, with 25 per cent of managers reporting a rise in prices for goods and services, an increase of 7 per cent over the previous quarter.

A separate report to be published later this week by Lehman Brothers argues that official figures have been underestimating recent growth and that in reality the economy has been growing at above 4 per cent during the past three quarters.

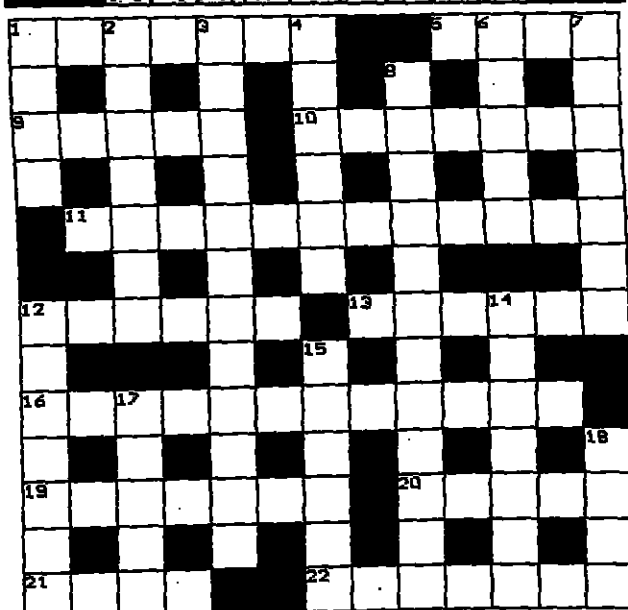
The report concludes that

interest rates will "certainly" need to rise to 7.5 per cent and "probably" to 8 per cent to slow the economy.

The industrial production figures, due out on Wednesday, are expected to provide further evidence of the strength of the service sector. The consensus is that annual manufacturing output will rise from 1.6 per cent to only 1.7 per cent as exports are held back by the strong pound.

Roger Bootle, page 44  
Gilt-Edged, page 45

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



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  - 5 Be right next to (4)
  - 9 S.A.M. musical, sounds like get thinner (5)
  - 10 Johnson's biographer (7)
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  - 12 Genial; harmless (6)
  - 13 Riviera principality (6)
  - 16 French author (12)
  - 19 US president after Eisenhower (7)
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  - 6 Type of egg dog; produce young (5)
  - 7 Huntsman's cry (5,2)
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**SOLUTION TO NO 1060**  
ACROSS: 3 Vertebrae 7 Mirage 8 Unkind 9 Quint 10 Bridge 11 Sash 13 Golem 15 Rise 17 Across 18 Septet 19 Hudson 20 Direct 21 Minute  
DOWN: 1 Vicuna 2 Parish 3 Verigo 4 Tautum 5 Brindisi 6 Audience 11 Seraphim 12 Sheridan 13 Go short 14 Episode 15 Rupert 16 Sketch

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## Yachtsman offers Far East trade challenge

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH business will soon be waving the flag in Tokyo, Singapore and other exotic climes. Chay Blyth, the round-the-world yachtsman, is pioneering an initiative to turn international yacht racing into a prime commercial venture.

Mr Blyth, who arrives in Cape Town today for the latest leg of the BT Global Challenge, has devised a Far East package for companies looking to develop contacts in the region. The Asia Pacific Business Challenge, launched this week, will combine yacht racing, business forums and corporate entertainment.

Commercial Union, BT and Group 4 Securitas are among companies to back Mr Blyth's Cornish company, The Challenge Business, which runs global yacht races. The new venture comprises ten regattas in key Far Eastern cities, including Hong Kong, Taipei,



Blyth: ten regattas

Bangkok, Brunei, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. Each will last 15 days, with the first starting in Tokyo in March 1998.

The schedule will include corporate hospitality, branding and marketing opportunities, sponsors' promotions, business lunches, and evening

receptions. The 67ft racing yacht will provide a unique spectacle in countries where sailing is still a young and exciting sport.

The highlight of each regatta will be a two-day racing programme for sponsors and their guests, followed by a prize-winners' party and trophy presentation. There will be a chance to sail between cities, with sailing times ranging from a few days to almost two weeks.

It costs £185,000 to become a yacht sponsor, ensuring participation at each of the ten events, but companies can participate for as little as £18,000.

Mr Blyth said he had been approached by enthusiasts, who felt the Asia Pacific was missing out on the excitement of round-the-world racing. Race organisers favour a route that takes in the southern oceans, where conditions are more challenging.

## Blair seen as chief executive material

TONY BLAIR is the political leader the business community would choose to become their own chief executive, according to a survey of British companies published today (Alasdair Murray writes).

The poll of 600 businesses, conducted by Reed Personnel Services, found that 40 per cent of respondents favoured Mr Blair ahead of John Major (36 per cent) and Paddy Ashdown (14 per cent).

The Labour leader proved most popular in the South, taking 47 per cent of the vote compared with 29 per cent

who chose the Tory leader. But Mr Major triumphed in the North, taking 46 per cent of the vote against 24 per cent for Mr Blair. By sector, Mr Blair won most support among retail and distribution businesses, while Mr Major was the choice of the manufacturing sector.

The survey found that business personnel believe Mr Blair has a younger outlook and is open to change. Mr Major was regarded as honest and believable, while Mr Ashdown was credited with good man-management skills.



JANET BUSH says that none of the three main parties is talking much sense on tax because the reality is just too embarrassing.

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